THE STATE OF ARIZONA CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona

June 22, 2017

9:33 a.m.

COASH & COASH, INC.
Court Reporting, Video & Videoconferencing
1802 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006
602-258-1440
staff@coashandcoash.com

Prepared by: LILIA MONARREZ, CSR, RPR Certificate No. 50699

Coash & Coash, Inc. 602-258-1440 www.coashandcoash.com

09:34:16-09:35:20 Page 4 PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 9:33 a.m. on June 22, 1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right. We ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 9:33 a.m. on June 22, 2017, at the State of Arizona, Clean Elections Commission, 1616 West Adams, Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the following Board members:

Mr. Damien Meyer, Acting Chairperson

Mr. Mark S. Kimble

Ms. Amy B. Chan

Mr. Galen D. Paton 2 2 have a motion and a second to approve the Commission 3 minutes from May 18th, 2017, and June 12th, 2017. 4 4 All in favor say aye. 5 (Chorus of ayes.) 5 6 OTHERS PRESENT: 6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Opposed? 7 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director Paula Thomas, Executive Officer Sara Larsen, Financial Affairs Officer Gina Roberts, Voter Education Manager Mike Becker, Policy Director Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager Amy Jicha, Legal Admin and VE Intern Joseph Kanefield, Ballard Spahr Mary O'Grady. Osborn Maledon (telephon: 7 (No response.) 8 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right. 9 There being no opposition, the minutes are approved. 10 On to Item Number III, which is discussion 10 Mary O'Grady, Osborn Maledon (telephonic) Kara Karlson, Assistant Attorney General Dana Walton, ADLCC 11 11 and possible action on the executive director's report. 12 12 Tom? Rhonda Barnes, House of Representatives Christina Borrego, Riester Valerie Giramberk, AZRA/LD23 Elizabeth Brantley, AZRA/LD23 PC Patricia Anderson, AZRA/LD23 13 MR. COLLINS: Yes, commissioner --13 14 14 Mr. Chairman, commissioners. I'll be brief. I know we Patricia Anderson, AZKA/LD23 Jeffrey Ong, AZ Senate Research Aimee Rigler, AZ Free Enterprise Club Alison Marciniak, AZ Advocacy Network Representative Vince Leach Tim Horn, LD23 & AZRA 15 15 have a number of people here to talk about some of the 16 rules and we're going to try to move through some of 17 Tim Horn, LD23 & AZRA
Jim O'Connor, President, AZ Republican Assembly
Tom Sinyard, AZRA/LD23 PC
Nancy Ordowski, AZRA/LD23
Scott Mussi, President, AZ Free Enterprise Club
Constantin Querard, Self
Barry McCain, Self
Representative Isela Blanc
Representative Isela Blanc
Representative Athena Salman
Dana Walton, AZ Democratic Party
Joel Edman, AZ Advocacy Network
Rivko Knox, LWV/AZ the preparatory stuff as quickly as we can. 18 18 Just to note that -- I really wanted to say 19 really on a personal level and a professional level today is Amy Jicha's last Commission meeting, as she'll 20 be leaving us in a few weeks to start law school at 21 Emoroy. You know, all of us think that her 22 contributions to the Voter Education Program has been 23 24 invaluable. She has been responsible for translating 24 25 our entire website to Spanish and she has been 25 09:33:16-09:34:15 Page 3 09:35:23-09:36:41

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PROCEEDING 1

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- 3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Good morning.
- 4 We're going to call the order the Citizens Clean
- 5 Elections Commission. It's June 22nd, 9:30 a.m. I'll
- 6 be acting as chairman today in Chairman Titla's
- 7
- 8 Let's go ahead and call the roll -- call to
- 9 order. Excuse me.
- Tom, the first item of business is 10
- 11 discussion and possible action on Commission minutes
- **12** for May 18, 2017, and June 12, 2017.
- 13 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, we just ask
- 14 that you -- that if someone would move to approve the
- minutes and -- unless you have edits or changes that
- you have seen in the minutes that you want to amend.
- 17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Anyone have any
- 18 changes or additions to the minutes?
- 19 (No response.)
- 20 COMMISSIONER PATON: I would move that we
- 21 accept those minutes from those two dates.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: We have a 22
- 23 motion.
- 24 Is there a second?
- 25 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Second.

- 1 instrumental in the preparation for a roundtable on
- And so we're really -- you know, we'll
- 4 be -- we're sad to see her go, but we're excited for
- 5 her future as she goes to law school despite all of our
- arguments against it.
- So thanks, Amy, for her service and we're
- pleased with that.
- With respect to the roundtable, we're
- expecting around 100 folks there. We've got the
- Secretary of State's Office, all the county recorders
- and election directors. We have groups that work with
- voters on a nonpartisan basis but that represent
- different ideological stripes. We have -- the Arizona
- Advocacy Network will have a representation there.
- Arizona -- Arizona for Prosperity -- or I'm sorry --
- Americans for Prosperity, we believe, has RSVPd.
- So we're trying to cover the gamut, and 18
- that will be focused on voter education and how to
- reach voters and how candidates can -- or not
- candidates -- how election officials and other groups
- who are working with voters can better be informed.
- The last two things I really need to get 23
- 24 through, we are working on some additional rule changes
- 25 regarding candidate transactions and reimbursement to

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- 1 the Clean Elections funds -- fund. These are
- 2 transactions that are designed to make the process more
- 3 cost efficient. We'll present these at a meeting this
- 4 summer or early fall.
- Just to give you an example of what we're
- 6 looking at, there are circumstances in which the
- 7 candidate's funds that need to be returned are returned
- 8 by check on the candidate account rather than, for
- 9 example, a cashier's check. Those may come back
- 10 insufficient funds, and there's a point at which the
- 11 amount of money that's involved is so little that
- 12 there's really a question of whether or not the value
- 13 to the fund is actually to let it go because the cost
- 14 of recovering that -- that dollar is greater than the
- 15 cost and the dollars to the funds.
- 16 So we're working on the nuances of that --
- 17 those kinds of things because we want to make the
- system as efficient and, therefore, consistent with the
- Commission's obligations to the fund.
- 20 The last thing I want to note is there is
- 21 an article by Rebecca Sanders that's in your materials
- 22 about changes Maricopa County is considering with
- 23 respect to all mail voting. I highlight that for --
- 24 for two specific reasons. One, you know, as you know,
- 25 the Commission works closely with the county and the

- 1 to the County Recorder's. So I just want to make sure
- 2 everyone understands where we are on that process.
- Unless you have questions, that concludes
- 4 the executive director's report.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: So, Mr. Collins,
- 6 as far as the article, then, "Soon you could cast your
- ballot anywhere in Maricopa County," our role at this
- point is just to -- as educational --
- MR. COLLINS: Right.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: -- essentially, 10
- 11 in letting people know this could be coming?
- MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, yes. That's
- exactly correct. We feel like we have an obligation to
- make sure that our information reflects what voters are
- actually going to see, but as far as getting on board
- with a particular approach to voting, that is not
- something that we would do lightly. We would have to
- make a determination on whether or not it's our role to
- do that in the first place and, in the second place,
- have a very -- and have a detailed policy proposal
- that's actually being followed that we would -- that we
- would either endorse or not endorse.
- 23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you.
- Anyone else have any questions on the 24
- 25 executive director's report?

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- 1 Secretary of State's Office on voter education. We
- 2 have the ongoing project on See the Money with the
- 3 Secretary. We're working with the counties on, you
- 4 know, looking at 2017 and how we build in correct and
- 5 effective messaging to voters about how they cast their
- 6 ballot, especially if -- in Maricopa County, which is
- 7 the largest county, is going to proceed with this in
- **8** 2018.
- 9 Now, I want to be clear on the record with
- 10 the Commission, just as I was in our meeting with the
- 11 County Recorder's, that the Commission has not taken a
- 12 position on the plan, such as it is, that Mr. Fontes is
- 13 going about implementing. And I have said to the
- 14 County Recorder's that the Commission won't endorse a
- 15 process in its own capacity unless or until there is a,
- 16 you know, formal either policy or bill or some kind of
- 17 thing for us to actually look at to vote on.
- So we have an obligation to make sure the 18
- 19 voters are receiving accurate information and that
- 20 information is ultimately -- the source of that is --
- 21 is going to be the County Recorder's, but that's quite
- 22 a bit different from whether or not the Commission, in
- 23 fact, you know, endorses a particular approach to this.
- 24 And we have not done that. I have not done that in my
- 25 capacity as executive director and have made that clear

- (No response.)
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Let's
- 3 move forward to Item Number IV on the agenda,
- 4 discussion and possible action on 2017 proposed meeting
- 5 dates.
- MR. COLLINS: Yes. Mr. Chairman,
- commissioners, we believe that these meeting dates work
- 8 for your calendars. The only exec asterisk here is we
- are hoping that we do not have to have a July meeting
- and we do have the roundtable on July 13. So, you
- know, my goal is to cancel the July meeting, but in
- 12 the -- you know, but we'll give you notice about that 13 as soon as we can. We've reserved the date just in
- 14 case.
- 15 The rest of these dates take us through the
- end of the year. The goal being to -- well, that's the
- goal. Unless you-all have objections to these dates,
- I'd ask you to move to -- I'd ask someone to move to
- 19 approve the dates as outlined in Item IV of your
- 20 materials.
- COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman? 21
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner 22
- 23 Kimble.
- COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: I would move that we
- 25 approve the dates set for meetings July through

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- 1 December.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Is there
- 4 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Second.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you, 5
- 6 Commissioner Chan.
- We have a motion to approve the Commission
- 8 meeting dates for the remainder of 2017 as set forth in
- 9 Item IV in our materials.
- 10 All in favor say aye.
- 11 (Chorus of ayes.)
- 12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any opposed?
- 13 (No response.)
- 14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Motion
- 15 carries.
- Item Number V on the agenda, discussion and 16
- possible action on the 5-Year Review Report submitted
- 18 to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council and related
- 19 matters.
- 20 Mr. Collins?
- 21 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just a
- 22 brief update. And Mary O'Grady is on the line in case
- 23 we need to get into any detailing of this.
- We did, based on the authorization that you 24
- 25 provided at our June 12th meeting, submit a letter and

- So as I -- you know, the -- so, you know, I
- 2 don't think we need to go into executive session for
- 3 this, but I'll just note that under the ethical rules,
- provided that Mr. Ellman is screened, Mary and I
- believe that, you know, they could proceed to represent
- GRRC without -- without issue. We have asked for and
- will get a copy of the screening memo. We have had
- 8 represented to us that there will be a screening. I
- talked to Mr. Weinzweig yesterday.
- So what I would suggest is we don't need a
- 11 motion on this, but I just wanted to tell you that my
- plan is to simply communicate to the AG's office and
- Mr. Weinzweig that, you know, we don't see a problem;
- 14 however, if the screening memo comes back and it's insufficient, we would reserve the right to ask that
- the screening memo be tightened up and that kind of
- thing. That's really what we think. We don't think
- there's any other issue there, I don't think.
- Mary, if I'm missing something feel free to 19
- 20 chime in, but that's -- that's our plan of action, but
- we don't think we need a motion on it. It's more to
- advise you what I -- what I intend to do. Obviously,
- based on what happened at the last meeting, the
- Governor's Regulatory Review Council ought to have
- outside counsel. There's no question about that. I

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- 1 a -- and a revised 5-Year Report to the Governor's
- 2 Regulatory Review Council on -- on the 20th.
- We haven't -- we've got acknowledgment that
- 4 that was received. I haven't checked their website so
- 5 I don't know if we're on the agenda for the next
- 6 meeting yet, but that laid out both our -- our issues
- 7 with the process thus far, our issues with the specific
- 8 process on the June 6th meeting and then -- and then
- 9 addressed to the -- you know, the specific -- although 10 we don't think the council made any determinations on
- 11 the return, we did identify and adjust/amend the report
- 12 resubmitted to deal with the specific statements of
- 13 specific council members and so noted.
- That's been submitted. We have final 14
- 15 copies we can -- we can get you on a disc if you'd like
- 16 them.
- 17 The only other thing I want to note is so
- 18 at this point, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council
- 19 will need outside counsel. They have proposed outside
- 20 counsel which is the firm of Ellman & Weinzweig.
- 21 That -- the AG's office, I think, out of at least an
- 22 abundance of caution has advised us that that firm has
- 23 a partner, Rob Ellman, who was solicitor general who
- 24 was involved in advising the Commission on issues that
- 25 are related to this matter.

- 1 don't think anyone questions that. So I don't see any
- 2 reason to make that process any more cumbersome than
- 3 it -- than it ought to be and I don't think we're -- as
- 4 I say, I think that provided there's an appropriate
- 5 screening, I don't think that there's any reason for us
- 6 to be concerned beyond that.
- Unless -- Mary, any other thoughts on that?
- MS. O'GRADY: No. I have nothing to add. 8
- **9** I think you covered it.
- MR. COLLINS: Okay. So that's the plan of 10
- 11 action. And I don't think there needs to be a motion,
- but if you disagree or would like a motion, you're
- welcome to make one. But that's -- that's what I
- intend to do, get the screening memo, review it. If
- it's insufficient, ask for additional protections, but
- I don't think that's probably what will happen. I
- suspect the screening memo will be sufficient and hope
- 18 the -- to give you some background, David Weinzweig
- 19 worked at Lewis and Roca and then he worked at the AG's
- 20 office. So he's very familiar with, you know, the
- screening process and those kinds of things.
- So I'm not -- I'm not super worried, but I
- don't want you -- I mean, I'm not vouching for him. He 24 will be GRRC's counsel, but then, on the other hand, I
- 25 know, you know, he has experience dealing with these

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- 1 kinds of intergovernmental conflicts.
- 2 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman?
- 3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Go ahead,
- 4 Commissioner Kimble.
- 5 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Collins, do we
- 6 know whether the council has notified the Secretary of
- 7 State's Office that they believe these rules should be
- 8 removed?
- 9 MR. COLLINS: Yes. In fact, the -- a
- 10 couple of days after the last meeting, so I think
- 11 June 8th, the council filed a report -- or a notice
- 12 that purported to -- excuse me -- declare or state that
- 13 R2-20-109 and R2-20-111 were -- I don't know if the
- 14 word they used was repealed or eliminated or something
- 15 like that. We filed a notice the same day stating the
- 16 opposite. The latest we know from the Secretary's
- 17 office is that the Secretary planned to publish both
- 18 notices and, you know, at that point, you know, we're
- 19 sort of -- we'll see what the next steps are.
- 20 I'm hopeful, given that the council ordered
- 21 us to return the 5-Year Report to them and we've done
- 22 that, that we will be back in front of the council and
- 23 the council will come to the conclusion or realize that
- 24 there are a number of substantive and procedural
- 25 problems with the way that they have gone about this,

- 1 that, you know, particular bridge.
- 2 My hope is that they'll -- and we -- you
- 3 know, we can talk to them about this directly. That's
- 4 something that I have to think through with Mary, but
- 5 my hope is that because of the resubmission of the
- 6 5-Year Report and the related procedural problems with
- 7 the assertions that GRRC is making, that -- that the
- 8 Secretary's office will defer -- will wait to see how
- 9 that plays out because I think that there are
- 10 significant problems, putting aside again or reserving,
- 11 as I say, all the constitutional and jurisdictional
- 12 claims that we have reserved, with just the very
- 13 process by which the Governor's Regulatory Review
- 14 Council has gone about this.
- 15 And I'm hoping the Secretary, in an
- 16 abundance of caution, will wait to see how that plays
- 17 out. You know, as you know, we have a pretty good --
- 18 we've done a pretty good job of working through many of
- 19 our issues with the Secretary's office so I'm hopeful
- 20 we can continue to do that.
- 21 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you,
- 22 Mr. Chairman.
- MR. COLLINS: And, Mr. Chairman, I don't
- 24 know if anyone is here -- there's a lot of people here
- 25 who are obviously here for public comment. I don't

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- 1 in addition to the fact that we continue to believe
- 2 that they don't have jurisdiction over us in the first
- 3 place and their jurisdictional assertions violate the
- 4 Voter Protection Act.
- 5 So the layers of difficulty with, if you
- 6 will, defending what -- the way that the Governor's
- 7 Regulatory Review Council has newly asserted its
- 8 superpower over Clean Elections are myriad and we've
- 9 made a record, I think, on all of those issues and will
- 10 continue to keep you updated as this progresses.
- 11 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. But
- 12 notwithstanding our differences with GRRC, as far as
- 13 you know now, the Secretary of State does not plan to
- 14 take any action to strike the rules?
- MR. COLLINS: Let me -- let me put it this
- 16 way. I have not checked the Secretary of State's
- 17 website today. I printed the rules for purposes of the
- 18 5-Year Report off the Secretary of State's website on
- **19** June 20th and the rules were there.
- 20 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: So you haven't had
- 21 any communication with them one way or the other about
- 22 their intentions?
- MR. COLLINS: Right, other than the public
- 24 statement that they plan to run both notices. I don't
- 25 know how they'll resolve that issue and when we get to

- 1 know if anyone is here for public comment on the GRRC
- 2 issue.
- 3 If you are, let me -- let us know, please,
- 4 because, otherwise, we might move on -- we'd like to
- 5 move on to the issue, I think, most of the people are
- 6 here for.
- 7 So -- okay. So that concludes my thoughts
- 8 on this -- on this issue unless you-all have any other
- 9 questions.
- 10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any other
- 11 questions?
- 12 (No response.)
- 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: So we can move
- 14 forward to Item Number VI, then, Tom?
- MR. COLLINS: Yes. I would recommend that.
- 16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: And that is
- 17 discussion and possible action on rule amendment
- 18 proposals.
- 19 Tom, I'm going to turn it over to you to
- 20 sort of explain the procedure we're going to go through
- 21 today.
- MR. COLLINS: Sure. Absolutely. So,
- 23 Commissioners, we have a number of folks here who are
- 24 inclined to give public comment on these -- on these
- 25 rule proposals. Just to frame this for purposes of --

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- 1 of your action, there are three different issues that
- 2 we have presented before you today under this item.
- 3 The first is to make a final determination as to how to
- 4 amend R2-20-702(B), and we've articulated three
- 5 specific rules on that which we've described in your
- 6 materials as Option A, Option B and Option C. And I
- 7 think you should have some proposed motion language
- 8 that has a blank for the option.
- **9** When it comes to voting on this, there is
- 10 not a set rule. You -- you know, there's no real rule
- 11 on how we adopt the rules other that they be adopted at
- 12 an open meeting. The -- there are a couple of
- 13 different ways we could do that after the public
- 14 comment. You know, one would be a motion as I've
- 15 proposed the motion which is to move for one of the
- 16 options. Another way to do it would be for potentially
- 17 each Commissioner to say I vote for -- you know, to
- 18 vote for each -- the rule that they particularly like.
- 19 My personal view is the most efficient way
- 20 would be a motion on an option. I think the one issue
- 21 we run into is -- is not really an issue. These rules
- 22 are designed to be mutually exclusive, and so with that
- 23 in mind, you know, what we've done in the past is the
- 24 rule that moots the other rules, I think, is majority
- 25 terminates the rule process. That -- you don't have to

- 1 purposes of opening the docket to do that down the
- 2 road
- 3 So what I would suggest is that -- you
- 4 know, the issue becomes folks are going to want to talk
- 5 about one or another of these or they may want to talk
- 6 about them together. And my inclination and not
- 7 necessarily direction but for efficiency purposes, it
- 8 may be easier for folks to talk about what they prefer
- 9 on 702(B) and what they prefer on 702.01 [sic] as
- 10 their -- as comments. And then if they have -- and
- 11 then if they want to do -- if we need to do a round on
- 12 the public -- on opening the other docket public
- 13 comment, we could do that, if that -- if that makes
- 14 sense to everyone.
- 15 So if I was making public comment, for
- 16 example, I would say I like 702 Option X for this
- 17 reason and I don't like Option 702.01 [sic] for this
- 18 reason and that would allow discussion of both, I
- 19 think, pretty efficiently. I don't know how many
- 20 people we have who are actually intending to comment.
- 21 So, obviously, we'd like to be able to move through
- 22 this with some alacrity without being too, you know,
- 23 onerous.
- 24 So that's kind of how I see it. I don't
- 25 know if anyone -- if any -- if that makes sense to the

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- 1 do it that way. You could break each one up and vote
- 2 on each one of them and then have A voted up, B voted
- 3 down, C voted down, theoretically, or whatever, but I
- 4 would propose that we do it that way because I think
- 5 it's the most orderly way to do it.
- 6 We could try to do a rank choice kind of
- 7 process, but I'm not sure that I'm sophisticated enough
- 8 to do that. So --
- 9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Could we do a
- 10 motion that adopts one and rejects the other two?
- 11 MR. COLLINS: Yes. That would be
- **12** appropriate if you so choose.
- 13 The other thing I'll say is then we have --
- 14 then we have the new language which is at page -- it
- 15 starts at page 6 of your materials which is the new
- 16 rule on campaign consultants. That's R2-2703.01.
- 17 That's a separate item, but that's -- that's easy
- 18 because we don't have options. We just have the one
- **19** rule.
- 20 And then -- and then, finally, we're asking
- 21 you to open public comment on expanding -- as you know,
- 22 last year we expanded our random -- our random audits
- 23 to do audits on all statewide candidates. We would
- 24 like to expand that to all candidates, legislative and
- 25 statewide. And that's just -- but that is just for

- 1 Commission, that's how I would do it.
- 2 Kara, I don't know if you have any -- if
- 3 that makes sense.
- 4 MS. KARLSON: That makes sense.
- 5 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Constantin, do you
- 6 think that makes sense?
- 7 MR. QUERARD: I'm a little unclear. So
- 8 we're going to debate Option A, B, C together and then
- **9** the consultant rule separately?
- MR. COLLINS: Well, I think for public
- 11 comment purposes, it will be helpful to get your A, B,
- 12 C view and your consultant view in one thing and then
- 13 the Commission can ask you questions about both. That
- 14 way we don't have to call you back up and down.
- 15 MR. QUERARD: Thank you.
- 16 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I appreciate the fact
- 17 that Constantin gets an input on that. That's very
- 18 nice.
- 19 MR. QUERARD: I was kind of doing this,
- 20 Commissioner Chan.
- 21 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Oh. Got you. Okay.
- MR. QUERARD: Yeah. I mean -- you know.
- 23 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Yeah.
- 24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: So should we
- 25 open it up for public comment now?

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- 1 MR. COLLINS: I think that's right. Yes.
- 2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay.
- 3 MR. COLLINS: And we don't have an order or
- 4 anything. So if you-all have -- if among those of
- 5 you -- I mean, we have Representative Leach here.
- 6 Obviously, we would defer to you, I think,
- 7 just as a matter of course, to go first if you're
- 8 interested.
- 9 MS. THOMAS: Please announce your name for
- 10 the record.
- 11 REPRESENTATIVE LEACH: I will do that.
- 12 Vince Leach. For the record, Vince Leach, 62927 East
- 13 Harmony Drive, Tucson. Also a member of -- a proud
- 14 member representing of the body of the House of
- 15 Representatives representing LD11, Oro Valley, Marana
- 16 and points north all the way to the City of Maricopa.
- 17 Mr. Chairman, board members and -- and
- 18 Mr. Director, thank you for bringing this forward.
- 19 By way of background, your director and I
- 20 had several discussions earlier in the year. I think
- 21 my record on Clean Elections and my record on -- as far
- 22 as being a Clean Elections candidate or being a
- 23 traditional candidate is fully documented either
- 24 through Facebook or many other -- many other -- and I'm
- 25 pleased to go into that. I think in the interest of

- 1 death to protect it. In fact, if we ever had a fight,
- 2 Al and I, it was over the fact that I was running
- 3 traditional.
- 4 Be that as it may, as you know, there's
- 5 been several points of legislation over the last
- 6 several years to do several things to Clean Elections,
- 7 not the least of which was at least two bills this last
- 8 session, one of which were mine that was -- would do --
- 9 would make some changes. My bill that I came forward
- 10 with was basically to remove this portion that we are
- 11 discussing today with the first rule change. And I'm
- 12 going to talk only about the first rule change. I'm
- 13 going to let CQ and others talk on the -- on the
- 14 consultant rule change.
- 15 And I think, you know, the Commission today
- 16 has -- has the ability to be right. You can do and
- 17 leave the situation just as it is and let candidates
- 18 funnel money through political parties. I think the
- 19 optics for the program of Clean Elections and the name
- 20 of Clean Elections bears some tarnishment if that is
- 21 allowed to happen.
- 22 I think you are putting at risk a major
- 23 political party, and that would be the Republican
- 24 party, but one that's -- one that I think needs to be
- 25 talked about and I think I would -- I would ask that

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- 1 time, that's probably not in your best interest, but
- 2 let me say that I found it encouraging that when I
- 3 picked up the phone with your director, that he was
- 4 willing to take on the task, willing to talk with me.
- **5** We met. And I think as a result, if I played a small,
- 6 small portion of where we are today, I want to publicly
- 7 thank him for stepping up and bringing these -- these
- 8 options to us.
- 9 I have been a -- I'm in the third time
- 10 being a candidate. I am a traditional candidate
- 11 because my life is in a different position than many
- 12 other candidates that come and use the tool of Clean
- 13 Elections, and I understand that. I fully understand
- 14 it. We've had many great candidates come to the
- 15 legislature that use this tool, use the tool in an
- 16 effective way to do Clean Electioneering, if you will
- 17 say Clean Electioneering, but used for electioneering
- 18 processes.
- And that has been successful for a long,
- 20 long time. There have been members in LD26 before when
- 21 that was still a district in southern Arizona that ran
- 22 clean. In fact, my senator, Senator Al Melvin,
- 23 probably carried the flag in southern Arizona as a
- 24 Clean Election candidate probably better than -- than
- 25 maybe some of the board members and will fight to its

- 1 the commissioners think about this is that there are a
- 2 number of disaffected voters out there on -- in both
- 3 parties that have migrated to the Independent party.
- 4 And so you are setting up -- you are
- 5 potentially setting up a position where you've got
- 6 maybe a majority of the Republicans and certainly a lot
- 7 of the Independents that are frustrated as they see
- 8 public money going to political parties, be it the
- 9 party that I'm a member of, other political parties,10 and maybe the Independents see no avenue for them to
- 11 avail themselves of that.
- As I said, the optics of it in the
- 13 marketplace are bad. I used it as a campaign tool
- 14 against my opponent. My opponent, for whatever reason,
- 15 elected not to do many mailers. My opponent elected
- 16 not to put up any signs. It was funded through maximum
- 17 of Clean Elections money. That served me well and I
- 18 will continue to use that if that is the wish of this
- **19** Commission going forward to let candidates do that.
- That candidate happened to run a post on
- 21 Facebook that she was going to run a commingled
- 22 election process with a U.S. senator and with a
- 23 congressman that was running for CD1. I think that's
- 24 wrong. In fact, I think the commingling of state money
- 25 and federal money runs into problems.

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- The other thing that I would say is that
- 2 I've heard that the parties will -- can do this and the
- 3 parties can do that. We have free markets. So there
- 4 have been years and years and years of
- 5 candidates that have run under the Clean Elections
- 6 Commission very successfully and using consultants,
- 7 using print shops from all over the state. So, you
- 8 know, I think it's a false nomer that we need this
- 9 money going to political parties because we need their
- 10 printing and we need this and we need that.
- 11 A free market, I think, would be best in
- 12 this particular -- particular case. I think that
- 13 without taking some action -- and even some of the
- 14 recommendations that you are making in your proposal I
- 15 think is going to put undue stress and maybe have to
- 16 add additional FTEs just to do the bookkeeping,
- 17 particularly -- I think it's Item C -- just to sort it
- **18** out. What is -- and what is adding profit? What is
- 19 adding markup? What is that? I'm not sure that that's
- 20 the goal. I'm not sure that's in the purview. I'm not
- 21 sure that it's in the capabilities of the Commission.
- 22 The other thing and the last thing I will
- 23 leave you with is that if this process is allowed to go
- 24 forward, you will see a growth, a tremendous growth of
- 25 this -- now that this loophole has been opened up and

- 1 our -- the Clean Elections Commission's money.
- 2 REPRESENTATIVE LEACH: Sure.
- 3 COMMISSIONER CHAN: And their point to us
- 4 was that as first-time runners -- some of them --
- 5 running for office, that the ability to get the voter
- 6 file from their party made a big difference to them.
- 7 And I don't know -- I mean, I'm sure printing has
- 8 something to do with it. I don't know that the parties
- 9 were engaging in printing or not. My recollection was
- 10 mainly that the testimony was about the ability of them
- 11 to get -- get something that the political party has
- 12 become kind of a -- a business, you know, for
- 13 candidates, especially those who are just starting out.
- 14 And I wondered if you had anything that you
- 15 could say about that because to me I want to make sure
- 16 that if people do run clean they're at least on the
- 17 same footing as traditional candidates in that regard,
- 18 that -- that we're not creating artificial barriers for
- 19 them, but I mean, we don't want, you know, somebody to
- 20 game the system and inappropriately use the money
- 21 either. And I felt at the time that this rule does
- 22 address those issues that are of concern to you, but
- 23 let me let you speak to that.
- 24 REPRESENTATIVE LEACH: Thank you. Thank
- 25 you, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Chan, good to see you again. My

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- 1 has been exposed to items that by your definition are
- 2 legal -- and that is voter -- getting out the voters,
- 3 sending money to the party to enhance voter
- 4 registration, having town halls, doing all that -- I'm
- 5 not sure that's where you want to go. I would argue
- 6 that's not where you want to go. I would argue again,
- 7 as I said at the beginning of my comments, you can be
- 8 right or you can do right.
- 9 In this particular case, I think you want
- 10 to do right and my -- my personal opinion is that you
- 11 would vote in A for -- I should say yes rather than A
- 12 because this would be confusing. I would ask you to
- 13 vote for Item B.
- 14 I would stand for any questions if you have
- **15** any.
- 16 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman?
- 17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Yes,
- 18 Commissioner Chan.
- 19 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman,
- 20 Representative Leach, thank you for being here. I know
- 21 that you had a bill this year, obviously, as you
- 22 mentioned, that you worked on to address this issue.
- 23 And hearing your concerns, you know,
- 24 concerns me as well. We did have testimony at our last
- 25 meeting from several elected officials who ran with

- 1 career started in your office at another department and
- 2 it served me well. I didn't -- my signatures went
- 3 through. You know, knowing the rules, playing by the
- 4 rules.
- 5 All candidates, whether you run traditional
- 6 or when you run clean, start from the same starting
- 7 point, okay? You either start gathering your 5s and
- 8 your signatures to access Clean Election money or, if
- 9 you run traditional, you start knocking on doors and
- 10 say I'm a candidate; I hope that I can gain your
- 11 support and can you give me 5, 10, \$15? So all the
- 12 candidates start from square one, and they all start at
- 13 the same point drinking from a firehose.
- And so candidates that put thought into how
- 15 they're going to run their candidacy have to prepare,
- 16 and that's one of the things that they have to prepare
- 17 for. They have to prepare for how they're going to get
- 18 their signatures. They're going to have to prepare for
- 19 how they're going to raise their money, how they get
- 20 their money, whether or not they're going to go clean,
- 21 what mailing lists are they going to work for. And 22 there's any number of lists. Now, 30 years ago there
- 23 was limited mailing lists. Now, unfortunately --
- 24 unfortunately, it looks like it's out on the cloud for
- 25 everybody to look at.

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- 1 And so the voting lists are readily
- 2 available from many, many sources. And if you're
- 3 going to go -- this is my belief. If you're going to
- 4 go into this world of politics and issue in
- 5 policymaking, it is only one of the things that you're
- 6 going to have to learn early on to use all your
- 7 sources. That's what we do in the legislature. We
- 8 have to figure out how is it do I get to the point
- 9 that's going to help me to get from A to B, and I think
- 10 that any candidate, whether you're a D, whether you're
- 11 an R, whether you're an I and whether you're running
- 12 clean or traditional, you start from that -- from that
- 13 point.
- 14 You raise your hand in the Valley -- and CQ
- 15 can probably tell -- tell me, but you raise your hand
- 16 and say I'm a candidate and I need help, how many
- 17 consultants do you think would run to them in a
- 18 heartbeat and be able to supply you everything from
- **19** mailing lists to -- to printing to whatever?
- 20 I will talk about another subject briefly
- 21 and that is independent expenditures. They seem to be
- 22 able to come up with mailing lists, pretty accurate
- 23 mail lists. They seem to be able to come up with --
- 24 I'm able to come up with mailing lists that affects me
- 25 as to -- because we really have four elections. We

- 1 baffled by that statement that it's too hard to find a
- 2 printer, to find the -- and B lets you go to the
- 3 parties and get the mailing lists. They've done that
- 4 for many, many years. I find no problem with that. So
- 5 there's your mailing list. So the other aspects of
- 6 running a campaign, I'm baffled by that.
- 7 Could you speak to that? What would be too
- 8 hard for these people to do this? They're --
- 9 they're -- it bothered me to see -- when we had a
- 10 complaint, seeing, I believe, 10 or 12 candidates just
- 11 writing checks to a party. And I feel like the party
- 12 could have too much influence and force them to do
- 13 things maybe they don't want to and you need to -- you
- 14 need to pay us this money or we're not going to support
- 15 you. That's kind of my -- my feeling.
- And I've had campaign experience years ago,
- 17 and I know the parties can kind of knuckle down on
- 18 people that don't follow really what everybody else
- 19 wants them to do in the party, the hierarchy or
- 20 whatever.
- 21 So could you expand on that for me?
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE LEACH: Let me -- let me go
- 23 back to one of your first comments and saying it's too
- **24** hard. You know, I really, really like our founders.
- 25 They made the system extremely difficult, and I truly

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- 1 have the early ballot election. We have the
- 2 go-to-the-polls election. Then we have early ballots
- 3 on the general and we have early and then we have
- 4 final. So we know -- we as candidates have the
- 6 availability of knowing who voted, who didn't vote, so
- 7 do we use the phone or we use mailing.

5 availability -- at least my campaign has the

- 8 I hope that wasn't too long and convoluted,
- 9 but we all start from the same point and a candidate --
- 10 now, we all maybe start from a different personal
- 11 level, but when you -- when you sign on the dotted line
- 12 over down the road that you are a candidate, there's
- 13 got to be some prior thought, I would hope. I can't
- 14 guarantee that, but I would hope that some prior
- 15 thought was put into that.
- 16 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Thank you.
- 17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner
- 18 Paton.
- 19 COMMISSIONER PATON: Hello. Thank you,
- 20 Representative Leach, for coming to speak to us. I
- 21 appreciate other perspectives.
- The last time -- the last meeting we had,
- 23 we had multiple representatives come and say that --
- 24 I'm in favor of B myself, but they said that this is
- 25 too hard. You're making things too hard. And I'm

- 1 believe that they knew what they were doing. I really
- 2 do. I grumble most every day starting about January
- 3 13th until we sine die about the difficulty of getting
- 4 something across the finish line at the House and the
- 5 Senate. And then, you know, for a second the sweat
- 6 goes off your brow and then you realize you've got the
- 7 ninth floor to deal with.
- 8 Things are hard. They're designed to be
- 9 hard. They're designed to be hard, I think, from the
- 10 very beginning so that when you -- when you look at
- 11 becoming a candidate that you're just not showing up
- and either getting -- getting -- getting money from atraditional source or getting money through Clean
- 4 Flactions from state manages. Very about 4 hours to de
- 14 Elections from state money. You should have to do --
- 15 if it's too hard -- I better hold that comment. I
- 16 don't -- I don't -- yeah, it's hard. It's a tough
- 17 business and you've got to be prepared. You've got to
- **18** do your homework going forward.
- 19 There are many sources, and I will go back
- 20 to prior to when this issue became an issue here at
- 21 Clean Elections, there were many good candidates, many
- 22 good electives on both sides of the aisle that have
- 23 utilized the system with -- with great degree of
- 24 success both -- on both sides of the aisle with good25 people. So your system is working. What we've found

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- 1 here or what somebody has found here is what I believe
- 2 is a loophole in the system that needs to be fixed. A
- 3 fix -- I think that B does that as well as any other.
- 4 Mr. Paton, I'm not -- I'm sure -- did I
- 5 answer your question?
- 6 COMMISSIONER PATON: Yes.
- 7 REPRESENTATIVE LEACH: Thank you.
- 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any other
- **9** questions from any commissioners?
- 10 Thank you, Representative Leach.
- 11 REPRESENTATIVE LEACH: Thank you.
- 12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: We very much
- 13 appreciate you coming and speaking with us today.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Always available. I
- 15 appreciate it. Have a good meeting.
- MR. HORN: Commissioners, good morning.
- 17 I'm not a candidate. I'm coming to you as a taxpayer
- 18 and a registered Republican here in Arizona. I'm also,
- 19 as many people attest, a Republican activist.
- 20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Excuse me,
- 21 sir --
- MR. HORN: My name is Tom Horn. I live in
- 23 North Scottsdale.
- I am a Republican activist, PC captain,
- 25 first chair of LD23, first vice chair of LD23, state

- So it seems to me the better thing would be
- 2 to consider turning that money back to Clean Elections
- 3 if it's going to be unused. It doesn't cost that much,
- 4 Tom Collins, executive director -- and I love that
- 5 name. We should go out and get a drink sometime, but
- 6 it seems like you'd be happy to get some checks coming
- 7 in that would be more substantial than a buck or two of
- 8 this money that's not used.
- 9 Now, here's the thing. If you guys don't
- 10 fix that hole, as a Republican activist I have to tell
- 11 you you're going to be flooded with a lot of new
- 12 Republican people coming out to do a similar thing that
- 13 our opposition party has been handily doing in recent
- 14 times. And that's not what any of us in Arizona really
- 15 want, is it? So hopefully you'll consider all these
- 16 things in your cleaning up of these -- of these options
- 17 and trying to clean up what money goes to political18 parties and especially the leftover money that's not
- 19 spent by the candidates running under Clean Elections.
- Thanks for listening to me. I appreciate
- 21 you being here.
- 22 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman -- oh.
- MR. HORN: Any questions?
- 24 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman?
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER:

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- 1 committee man, alternate delegate to the national
- 2 convention. So I am a Republican, and I agree with the
- 3 statements by Representative Leach. Option B is great.
- 4 It sounds like a good thing. It gets more control over
- 5 that. It should help us all.
- 6 I love Clean Elections. I think it's a
- 7 great thing. It's a very distinct thing. I moved to
- 8 Arizona about 14 years ago and was thrilled with this
- 9 whole idea of Clean Elections and what's happened.
- 10 Thank you-all for working at it, but there are some
- 11 problems, right? I like Option B. I'm not sure it
- 12 really clears up the hole that I have in my mind and
- 13 that's this issue, of course, of money going back to
- 14 the parties or going to the parties at the end if
- 15 there's money let over.
- And I only look at that sign up there which
- 17 says the whole idea of Clean Elections -- in big print,
- 18 it says, by diminishing the influence of special
- 19 interest money. Well, political parties are special
- 20 interest, the biggest special interest in this state.
- 21 So to have Clean Elections money just pouring to the
- 22 parties that's kind of a leftover and not really
- 23 getting anything for it, we're just going to give it
- 24 over to the parties later seems odd to me if that's our
- 25 major effort of Clean Elections.

- 1 Commissioner Kimble.
- 2 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: I'm not sure what you
- 3 mean, sir, about leftover money.
- 4 Is there something in Option C that you
- **5** feel addresses leftover money?
- 6 MR. HORN: No. I like Option B.
- 7 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay.
- 8 MR. HORN: However, it's not as clear as I
- 9 would like to see it on money going to the political
- 10 parties. If it's leftover money, not expenditure money
- 11 but leftover money at the end of a campaign or someone
- 12 who drops out, where does that money go? And I've been
- 13 told that it's something that is going on to political
- 14 parties as opposed to coming back to you.
- 15 Is that not true?
- 16 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Well, just getting --
- 17 just addressing Option C, there's one sentence that
- 18 says all expenditures must be for the services used by
- 19 the particular participating candidate, but I would
- 20 like to ask Mr. Collins.
- 21 Is there some way that leftover money would
- 22 be -- would be given to a political party?
- 23 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner
- 24 Kimble, under the -- all the rules that we have and
- 25 under the statute under 16-953, if money is not used

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- 1 for a direct campaign expenditure, it is -- it is --
- 2 the candidate must return it to the fund. So I think
- 3 that the issue that we're kind of talking around has
- 4 more to do with reporting than it has to do with
- 5 returning.
- 6 And what I mean by that -- and Sara can
- 7 clarify this if I'm incorrect, but oftentimes you'll
- 8 see a report of dollars having been spent that comes at
- 9 the end, but that doesn't necessarily tell you that
- 10 the -- that the -- it doesn't necessarily mean that it
- 11 was dumped into the party at the end. It is a question
- 12 of whether or not -- for example, if you have cash on
- 13 hand you probably -- you should -- you could make an
- 14 expenditure to whomever, provided it was for reasonable
- 15 value and for direct -- direct campaign contributions
- 16 or direct campaign expenditures.
- 17 The reporting issues, especially in the
- 18 case that we dealt with back in last fall, are
- 19 different from the substantive issue of whether or not
- 20 funds were funneled. And there's a little bit of a
- 21 disconnect there. I'll give you one specific example.
- 22 There was a candidate -- and it may have been even in
- 23 Representative Leach's district. I don't know -- who
- 24 had a \$12,000 expenditure and didn't have -- had a very
- 25 loosey-goosey line item on that.

- 1 MR. COLLINS: People have strong views on,
- 2 that might affect the down ballot races, you know. It
- 3 is rational to run somebody there even if they end up
- 4 losing significantly to the legislative candidate
- 5 because if you don't have anybody there and that
- 6 candidate is unpopular in that district, then you've
- 7 made a bad decision politically.
- 8 So it's hard -- we don't want to be in a
- 9 position of evaluating pre-election decisions based on
- 10 post-election results. That's not our job to do that,
- 11 but that's -- that's hard to avoid if you actually work
- 12 in politics as opposed to what we're -- what we're
- 13 doing, if that makes sense.
- MR. HORN: It does, but to many of us, to
- 15 see the hole -- and I'll use optics, as Representative
- 16 Leach said -- the optics are bad and it's got to be
- 17 clear. We need to know what's going on. So if one
- 18 side is going to get away with that, then the other
- 19 side is certainly going to try. And I think being a
- 20 Clean Elections person and a taxpayer in Arizona, we
- 21 need to have no party or no one taking advantage of
- 22 this system. It's a beautiful system. Let's keep it
- 23 that way, and I hope Option B can be made tight enough
- 24 to control that optic at least.
- 25 Thank you.

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- We had -- had Staff and Sara and Amy had
- 2 caught that and asked -- asked that candidate to
- 3 correct that, you know, prior to or at the same time as
- 4 the complaint. And that was really a reporting
- 5 accuracy issue more than a -- sort of a, you know, this
- 6 sort of argument that dollars were being funneled for
- 7 other purposes.
- 8 Another example that is -- you know, when
- 9 you look at these candidates and some of the arguments
- 10 that we've heard -- I just want to expand on this point
- 11 a little bit is was it rational for the -- for the
- 12 opposition party in a particular district to spend
- 13 money in a race. And one of the things that's become
- 14 clear to me as we look at the election data that comes
- 15 out is in some legislative races the legislative
- 16 candidates significantly outperform the federal
- 17 candidate.
- 18 So, you know, I'm not in a position to
- 19 judge this, but if the decision is to make -- if you
- 20 make the decision that you're going to commit to run,
- 21 as Mr. Leach points out, up front and the circumstances
- 22 you think are going to be there are a person who has
- 23 potentially very divisive -- I'd like a better word,
- 24 but you know what I mean.
- 25 MR. HORN: Yeah.

- 1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you,
- 2 Mr. Horn.
- 3 Any further public comment?
- 4 Sir, please state your name.
- 5 MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you.
- 6 Good morning, commissioners. My name is
- 7 Jim O'Connor. I was a recent candidate for chairman of
- 8 the AZGOP. Having lost that position on January 28th,
- 9 I was elected last month as the president of the
- 10 Arizona Republican Assembly, a very hard right
- 11 conservative Republican operation, oftentimes very
- 12 critical of the Republican party, but today I come to
- 13 speak on the issue and I stand behind Vince Leach and
- 14 Tim Horn who spoke earlier with their comments.
- We the people are very interested in
- 16 keeping Clean Elections clean. That really sounds
- 17 good, feels good. It felt great in the shower this
- 18 morning being cleaned up to start my day. So with an
- 19 emphasis on this, there is the appearance of abuse, and
- 20 I know you're, I guess, constrained to vote on any one
- 21 of three options. A friend of mine reported Option A
- 22 as draconian. If that has anything to do with dragons,
- 23 maybe every once in a while it's good to bring out a24 dragon if it can keep us clean. I don't know that.
- 25 I'm not the analyst in the room and I have not done

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- 1 research on Options A, B or C. I'll leave that up to
- 2 the wisdom of others and your very competent Tom
- 3 Collins over there.
- 4 So I just want to be on record on behalf of
- 5 the people that I represent in an elected capacity, as
- 6 well as other Republicans, let's keep this thing really
- 7 clean. My -- there was general information out in the
- 8 state marketplace of ideas that a candidate could file
- 9 to run clean, get the appropriate funding from the
- 10 state and basically fake expenditures, or if they
- 11 had -- let's say if they got 20,000 from the Commission
- 12 and spent 10 legitimately and then withdrew from the
- 13 race, that that candidate had the option to give the
- 14 money to his or her political party and/or a particular
- 15 charity of their choosing.
- 16 If you could correct that for me right --
- 17 well, if you could clean that up for me right now, I'd
- 18 appreciate that.
- 19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner
- 20 Chan.
- 21 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman and
- 22 Mr. O'Connor, thank you for that opportunity because
- 23 that's actually for traditional candidates when they
- 24 want to dispose of excess money from their campaign
- 25 funds. For Clean Election candidates, they are

- 1 like-minded. You want to elect your own people because
- 2 you agree with those policies. I don't view that as a
- 3 special interest.
- 4 I don't think of the parties as -- when I
- 5 say -- when you say "special interest," it really has a
- 6 nefarious connotation. I don't view the parties that
- 7 way and I don't know if my commissioners want to differ
- 8 with that, but in my mind -- and, you know, I think
- 9 Representative Leach may be disappointed with how I --
- 10 how I view these different options and I'd like to
- 11 continue the conversation just a little bit, but
- 12 Option C protects and fixes the problem that occurred
- 13 in Mr. Leach's race and really kind of requires the
- 14 documentation or the clarity so that we don't have
- 15 people just writing \$10,000 checks to their party, you
- 16 know, and that was definitely a problem, right?
- 17 And so to me Option C fixes that. I would
- **18** love to hear why -- why there's a preference of
- **19** Option B because to me it hamstrings our clean
- 20 candidates versus the traditional. And, obviously,
- 21 Mr. Leach made the point people make their mind up how
- 22 they're going to run, and for me as a commissioner I
- 23 want our candidates to be able to run without having
- 24 one arm behind their back as far as their decision
- 25 making. I think the documentation required in Option C

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- 1 required to return any unused money to the Commission's
- 2 fund.
- 3 MR. O'CONNOR: Excellent. Thank you.
- 4 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Yeah. So I appreciate
- 5 it, and I always love to have a dialogue because it
- 6 really gives an opportunity. There are so many, you
- 7 know, myths out there or misunderstandings, and I think
- 8 it may be because we have traditional candidates and
- 9 that's the way they dispose of their monies versus
- 10 the -- the Clean Election candidates.
- 11 MR. O'CONNOR: I thank you very much for
- **12** that.
- 13 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Thank you.
- MR. O'CONNOR: Any other questions of me?
- 15 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman?
- 16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Go ahead,
- 17 Commissioner Chan.
- 18 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Actually, it's kind of
- 19 more of a comment. So, Mr. O'Connor, you can -- you
- 20 can stay up there or maybe other people have questions
- 21 for you, but I'm actually very surprised to hear today
- 22 what some of you have to say about the parties because23 I don't view the parties as special interest. I mean,
- 24 I know they have their own special interest. There's
- 25 freedom of association, you know, you're with

- 1 does that, but anyway. So, again, perhaps that's more
- 2 of a comment, but please feel free to respond.
- 3 MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Ms. Chan, I
- 4 appreciate that interaction. That's very, very helpful
- 5 all around I think even to those listening to us.
- 6 I want to say I have never heard of a
- 7 political party that lacked an insatiable desire for
- 8 more cash and contributions. So they're in the --
- 9 that's all they do. That's why they exist. To that
- 10 end, political parties and just groups like all of us
- 11 in this room getting together holding up a flag like
- 12 that one we all salute. We're in -- we're in this
- 13 together as citizens of the United States and citizens
- 14 of the state of Arizona. After that we are not in the
- 15 printing business. We are not in the flag business.
- 16 We're not in the sign business.
- As a Republican I like to leave that work
- 18 to political consultants and to the private sector. If
- 19 a political party jumps in and a candidate comes to me
- 20 as a party chairman and says I want signs, all I'm
- 21 going to do is go to the low bidder, get my signs, mark
- 22 them up like any businessperson and then sell it to
- 23 that candidate. So that's -- I'm a broker in a way.24 I'm not needed as an R, a D, an I or -- there is
- 25 another party -- Libertarian. Sorry. I forgot that.

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- 1 So --
- COMMISSIONER CHAN: And Green. 2
- MR. O'CONNOR: Sorry about that one. Yeah. 3
- 4 Okay. So, again, it's in the way.
- Relating to your state -- statement that
- 6 it's -- a special interest has an implication of
- 7 something nefarious, I don't -- in my experience I
- 8 don't take it that way. If somebody is representing
- 9 the teachers union, the teachers union needs
- 10 representation. They all do the same thing. They need
- 11 a voice. So they get somebody to watch the special
- 12 interest, to weigh in on what's in it for them, what
- 13 they're missing, what they need.
- 14 Same thing with the copper mines. They're
- 15 a special interest, but there's nothing evil about
- 16 that. If you're in the business of pulling -- mining
- 17 copper, you need somebody to come in the legislature or
- 18 a commission like this to speak on their behalf. So
- 19 it's not necessarily a bad thing.
- 20 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Okay. Thank you.
- 21 MR. O'CONNOR: Thank you all very much.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you, 22
- 23 Mr. O'Connor.
- 24 Just going on what Commissioner Chan had
- 25 said about further dialogue, do any commissioners want

- 1 nonsensical.
- It kind of reminds me my mom grew up during
- 3 the Depression and she would give us a task and she
- would say I want you to do this and that's too hard.
- And she -- she would say -- she grew up in the
- 6 Depression, like I said, in a rural area and she would
- 7 say, no, it's too hard to chop cotton from dusk to
- dawn -- dawn to dusk. That's too hard.
- And so when you're telling me it's too hard
- 10 to find these people and you want to lead this state
- and you want to just write a check to a party -- and we
- 12 had a complaint where they're writing checks for \$6,000
- and then the same thing. Another party person -- I
- mean, another person wrote a check for \$12,000 for the
- same label. I just -- that's my beef with that, and I
- think C, they can get voter lists from the party. The
- parties have done that for many years. They can get
- voter lists. They can regroup their volunteers. They
- can pay people if they want.
- It takes planning. You shouldn't do this 20
- 21 as a whim. This isn't like in high school English
- where I'm thinking of a -- I need to write an essay, to
- find an essay topic, you know, in two weeks or a month
- 24 or something like that. It takes planning. You want
- 25 to be a state representative or a Corporation

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- 1 to care to add why they support a specific option?
- I know Commissioner Paton, you indicated a
- 3 preference for Option B.
- Do you want to share why?
- COMMISSIONER PATON: Yeah. Well, at our
- 6 last meeting we -- I spoke extensively about I just --
- 7 I just feel like parties exert a lot of influence on
- 8 candidates and I've experienced it. Why are you 9 running against -- not personally, I didn't run, but
- 10 why are you running against incumbents and, you know,
- 11 why don't you wait your turn and this kind of thing.
- And I just feel like the optics, as we 12
- 13 talked -- as Representative Leach talked about, when
- 14 this gets into the newspapers that Clean Elections is
- 15 allowing people to -- to write checks to parties, this
- 16 is -- this is going to tarnish Clean Elections, in my
- 17 mind, that -- like they're calling it optics. That's
- 18 really what the situation is.
- 19 So the main thing is people are saying it's
- 20 too hard. I just don't understand the too hard. You
- 21 want to represent the state and be a leader in the
- 22 state and you can't find a printer. You can't find
- 23 somebody to help you knock on doors. You can't do
- 24 this. You can't do this without the party -- writing a 25 check to the party to have them do it? I find that

- 1 Commissioner person or the governor or whatever, you
- 2 have to plan this out. That is part of the hoops you
- 3 have to go to to prove that you're a hardened person,
- 4 that you can fulfill your duties, that you have been
- 5 challenged.
- And that was my beef with the other -- with
- the reducing the amount of \$5 contributions. You
- should go door to door. You have to be challenged by
- the voters. You have to -- it seems to me people want
- to do this the easy way and this shouldn't be easy. It
- should be difficult because you are representing
- hundreds of thousands of people. Why should people
- support you if you're unwilling to go see them, if
- 14 you're unwilling to do the hard things that it takes to
- be a good leader?
- You don't want -- you know, I taught
- school. I've heard all kinds of excuses for 28 years.
- 18 I coached for many years. It took me two and a half
- 19 years to win a game in softball when I first started on
- the -- at the reservation and I ended up winning six
- 21 conference championships. It was hard, but we had to work. We had to do whatever we needed to do. And so,
- 23 anyway, that's my -- my beef.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any other
- 25 Commissioners want to weigh in or should we go on with

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- 1 more public comment?
- 2 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman, I'd
- 3 rather hear more public comment. I don't have a firm
- 4 feeling about them now.
- 5 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I
- 6 wanted to -- I wanted to just real quick, I have -- as
- 7 far as testifying, I have -- right now I have Mr. Mussi
- 8 from Free Enterprise would like to speak. Mr. Querard
- 9 would like to speak. I don't know if there's anyone
- 10 else. I'm trying to keep kind of a list so we know how
- 11 many more folks want to -- one more there. I don't
- 12 know. And, then, is anybody -- I just want to make
- 13 sure we have everybody who wants to speak.
- Okay. So we have -- so why don't we start
- 15 with the gentleman to Mr. Querard's left and then,
- 16 ma'am, you and then Scott and then Querard.
- 17 Does that -- Mr. Querard, does that work
- **18** for everybody?
- 19 MR. SINYARD: I'm up?
- 20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Does that work for
- 21 everybody?
- MR. SINYARD: It works for me.
- MR. COLLINS: Scott?
- 24 MR. SINYARD: Good morning. My name is Tom
- 25 Sinyard. I'm a special interest guy. When I was 25

- 1 MR. SINYARD: Sorry.
- 2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Can you stay at
- 3 the podium, please? I think Commissioner Paton has a
- 4 question for you.
- 5 COMMISSIONER PATON: So since I'm
- 6 interested in B, why -- why are you -- why do you think
- 7 that B would not -- so that they couldn't buy voter
- 8 lists from their party?
- 9 MR. SINYARD: I think despite how you write
- 10 the rules, unless you have some vigorous enforcement,
- 11 it will just by nature slide into misuse of the funds.
- 12 COMMISSIONER PATON: So you're suspicious?
- MR. SINYARD: I'm suspicious.
- 14 COMMISSIONER PATON: Okay.
- 15 MR. SINYARD: And I think most citizens
- 16 here are suspicious. And "optics" is not one of my
- 17 favorite words, but the optics are terrible.
- **18** Any other questions?
- 19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: No. Thank you.
- 20 Thank you, sir, for your comments.
- 21 MR. SINYARD: Okay.
- 22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any additional
- 23 comment?
- 24 I think you were next -- hold on one
- 25 second.

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- 1 years old and getting out of the military, I voted for
- 2 Goldwater, and I've been a Republican ever since. And
- 3 I'm sorry to disagree with you, but it's strictly
- 4 special interest. And if I had my way, frankly -- I
- 5 was listening today -- I'm not sure we should give
- 6 candidates anything, but if we do, I agree with what's
- 7 been said here that if we do, we need to pay real
- 8 attention to what you put up here: Diminishing the
- 9 influence of special interest money and improving and
- 10 maintaining -- I might add -- maintaining the integrity
- 11 of the state government.
- So my choice when I first came in here was
- 13 probably B and -- but if you're going to do B or you're
- 14 going to do C, it seems to me you're going to have to
- 15 hire some accountants and lawyers to make sure that you
- 16 do the right thing. So my choice is A. And if you
- 17 want to comment on consultants, I have enough
- 18 experience to know the value of those guys. You need
- 19 some way to control how the money is spent, but I would
- 20 vote for A.
- 21 Thank you for your time.
- 22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Can I ask him a
- 23 question?
- 24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Yes.
- 25 Mr. Sinyard?

- 1 Sir, we're going to let her go.
- 2 MR. MUSSI: Okay. No, ladies first.
- 3 MS. ORDOWSKI: That's fine.
- 4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: No, go ahead.
- 5 MS. ORDOWSKI: My name is Nancy Ordowski --
- 6 excuse me. My name is Nancy Ordowski. I'm from
- 7 Fountain Hills, and I'm the chairman for LD23. I
- 8 ran -- I wasn't going to speak at all and Commissioner
- 9 Paton's comments brought to mind some things.
- 10 I ran for town council in Fountain Hills
- 11 and it was hard work. I had to find my own list. I
- **12** had to find my own donations. I had to get out to
- 13 everything that was going on in that town and I didn't
- 14 win. It brought me to other things. It made me
- 15 stronger, and as chairman of LD23 I've had to fight
- 16 lots of issues with the Arizona GOP office. And if you
- 17 don't learn to take principle and honesty and integrity
- 18 to these fights, then we don't have -- we aren't going
- 19 to be able to save the republic that we have that was
- 20 created by these wonderful founders.
- 21 So I don't think hard is a reason not -- to
- 22 make exceptions, and I agree -- I don't know that any 23 one of those three options are the best without lots of
- 24 supervision. I have lots of concerns about how things
- 25 are handled and the integrity with which all of the

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- 1 work is done. So we really have to be very, very
- 2 careful and very -- and careful with our monies.
- 3 And just on another side, I attended the
- 4 County Recorder's meeting last night, and they were
- 5 asked by somebody there how some of this new funding is
- 6 going to be paid for. And people were told that the
- 7 Clean Elections Committee is going to be paying for
- 8 some of the things that the County Recorder is doing.
- 9 Maybe you don't know that. Maybe you do know it, but I
- 10 thought I'd advise you that that was a public statement
- 11 last night at the meeting.
- MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, if I could just
- 13 address that real quickly.
- 14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Ms Ordowski,
- 15 please stay at the podium.
- 16 Go ahead.
- 17 MR. COLLINS: Yes. We have, in fact,
- 18 worked with the County Recorder's on education around
- 19 that issue. So we are -- we do have a plan to make
- 20 expenditures related to explaining to voters how they
- 21 ought vote. As I've said in my earlier comments,
- 22 that's --
- 23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: The procedures
- 24 of how they cast their votes.
- MR. COLLINS: The procedures. I'm sorry.

- 1 MR. COLLINS: No, I appreciate it.
- MS. ORDOWSKI: Excuse me, but besides that,
- 3 it wasn't the fact that you were going to be helping
- 4 with the education of the process. People were asking
- 5 how you were -- how they, since County Recorder Fontes
- 6 has said that he wanted to reduce expenses and things
- 7 like that, how they were going to pay for these workers
- 8 that are going to be working at the ballot locations.
- 9 And they were told -- we were left with the opinion
- 10 that the monies were going to be coming from an
- 11 addition from Clean Elections. So I'm just sharing
- 12 that with you.
- MR. COLLINS: Well, that's -- sure. I
- 14 appreciate that. That is --
- MS. ORDOWSKI: But I don't want to get off
- 16 the importance of the --
- 17 MR. COLLINS: No, I understand.
- 18 MS. ORDOWSKI: -- what we're here for.
- 19 Both of these things all are important, and I just
- 20 wanted to make sure that as a citizen of Arizona and as
- 21 a taxpayer that I'm concerned about all of these
- 22 issues. And I encourage people to work for what
- 23 they're going to get and not just expect that it's
- 24 going to be handed to them.
- 25 Any comments?

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- MS. ORDOWSKI: I understood.
- 2 MR. COLLINS: The procedures of how they
- 3 ought to vote which we think is our obligation. I have
- 4 made it clear to the County Recorder's and to the
- 5 Commission here that that's our obligation, but it
- 6 doesn't mean that we are endorsing the County
- 7 Recorder's actions.
- 8 And we really would need -- and I said this
- 9 to them at a separate meeting, that we would really
- 10 need a proposal that actually outlines what the -- you
- 11 know, what the basis for the decisions are and how they
- 12 plan to go at implementing them on a long-term basis
- 13 and what the legal justifications are that -- before I
- 14 could bring that to the Commission for purposes of, A,
- 15 determining whether or not it's the Commission's
- 16 business to have an opinion about that and, B, to
- 17 express an opinion about that.
- 18 So the Commission does have an obligation
- **19** as the voter education -- part of our voter education
- 20 mandate to, you know, participate in educating folks.
- 21 There is a distinction between education and
- 22 endorsement. I know that may not be clear on the
- 23 surface of things, but it's very important. That's why
- 24 I brought it up in my comments to the Commission and --
- 25 MS. ORDOWSKI: That's why I brought --

- 1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner
- 2 Chan.
- 3 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman and
- 4 Mrs. Ordowski -- hi.
- 5 MS. ORDOWSKI: Hi.
- 6 COMMISSIONER CHAN: And it's really not
- 7 just you that has said this about the work that it
- 8 takes to -- that goes into an election. You know, I --
- 9 I just want to chime in that I don't think that our
- 10 candidates are trying to avoid any work because they're
- 11 still having to go collect \$5 qualifying contributions.
- 12 They're still having to collect seed money to, you
- 13 know, even get a start for their campaigns. I think
- 14 all that our candidates want to do is have a level
- 15 playing field with the traditional candidates who can
- 16 obtain maybe a voter list that doesn't cost an arm and
- 17 a leg because I think the recorders charge more than
- 18 the parties do to these folks.
- MS. ORDOWSKI: I've been able to get lists
- 20 without paying anything. So there are -- there are
- 21 ways to get voter lists and voter lists are public
- 22 information. So I just -- I don't think -- I think
- 23 this is an excuse. Excuse me. I'm sorry, but I think
- 24 it's an excuse
- 25 COMMISSIONER CHAN: An excuse to transfer

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- 1 money to parties?
- 2 MS. ORDOWSKI: To transfer money to the
- 3 parties.
- 4 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Okay. All right.
- 5 Well, thank you very much.
- 6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you.
- 7 Mr. Collins?
- 8 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I know we
- 9 have Mr. Mussi who I think would be good to go next.
- 10 I need to make a public announcement. We
- 11 have been notified the water has gone out in the
- 12 building and we are -- so if you need to use the
- 13 restroom, the closest building is.
- 14 COMMISSIONER CHAN: DOA?
- MR. COLLINS: Probably DOA, but they've got
- 16 DOA pretty well locked down these days, or maybe next
- 17 door at the -- I don't know what's next door, actually.
- **18** Yes?
- MS. THOMAS: Tom, I don't know how many
- 20 buildings are affected. You've got the city of Phoenix
- 21 right here. It's a major water break.
- 22 MR. COLLINS: Okay.
- MS. THOMAS: So I don't know --
- 24 MR. COLLINS: All right. All right.
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: So all public

- 1 special interest and one organization an advocacy group
- 2 or when they -- when two people are advocating for
- 3 something at the legislature, one is an activist but
- 4 the other one is a special interest lobbyist.
- 5 COMMISSIONER CHAN: So I was right to say
- 6 it was a nefarious connotation.
- MR. MUSSI: Yeah, it's always -- I mean, it
- 8 is, but I mean, you know, it's just always -- it's
- 9 always how it's just spun, but the reality is, you
- 10 know, any organization in my belief is a special
- 11 interest group which isn't a bad thing. I think that,
- 12 you know, if people want to get together, organize,
- 13 exercise their first amendment rights and their right
- 14 to free speech, they have a right to do that.
- Our organization, in looking at this issue
- 16 and examining it, you know, we did a lot of research
- 17 over the fall and found that this was pretty much a
- 18 widespread abuse where money was getting funneled to
- 19 the -- to one -- to the Democrat party and we kind of
- 20 watched as it played out. Our belief is that Option A
- 21 is probably the only responsible option and appropriate
- 22 action in dealing with this issue. And I'll get into
- 23 that. And the reason is that there's no good public
- **24** policy reason for the -- to allow for the practice.
- 25 The parties themselves as an interest group

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- 1 comment will be limited to two minutes.
- 2 MR. COLLINS: So Mr. -- Mr. Chairman, I
- 3 know that there are a couple other folks who want to
- 4 talk. I would like to get to Mr. Mussi and Mr. Querard
- 5 and then maybe we can move on to anybody else who needs
- 6 to talk because I think Mr. Mussi and Mr. Querard
- 7 have -- have some specific points that they want to
- 8 make and have been involved on this issue, as has
- 9 Representative Leach, and so I really would like to
- 10 make sure that we get them in before -- before too
- 11 long. So that's my preference as far as order, if
- 12 that's okay with Mr. Mussi and Mr. Querard.
- 13 So you're --
- 14 MR. MUSSI: Thank you, commissioners. My
- 15 name is Scot Mussi. I'm president of the Arizona Free
- 16 Enterprise Club, probably often labeled as one of those
- 17 evil special interest groups which often is in the eye
- **18** of the beholder. My definition is it's basically any
- **19** organization that has -- has a cause or a belief or
- 20 engagement where people are organizing, it would fall
- 21 under the definition of special interest group. You
- 22 might like them. You might hate them, but they're a
- 23 special interest group.
- 24 I always find it entertaining when
- 25 reporters would write stories and call one organization

- 1 are the only interest group that can profit off of this
- 2 arrangement. You know, I know with Clean Elections, I
- 3 think people like to say when Clean Elections came
- 4 around, it was, you know, people knocking on doors and
- 5 getting 5s, which does happen.
- 6 And that occurs and that's part of the
- 7 system, but make no mistake, you know, labor unions,
- 8 trade associations, other organizations, we don't
- 9 participate in this but assist with candidates in
- 10 collecting their \$5 qualifying contributions. They go
- 11 out to their members, make sure they collect them, help
- 12 them in the system to get qualified for their money.
- Prior to Clean Elections, they would
- 14 probably write them a PAC check or solicit their
- 15 members to write them direct contributions. Now
- 16 they're just assisting them in going and collecting
- 17 their 5s and doing that. Totally lawful. Totally
- 18 allowed, but they're not -- they're not doing it
- **19** because they're altruistic. They're doing it because
- 20 they support and believe in that candidate. They want
- 21 to help them get elected to that specific office.
- The difference here is the state parties.
- 23 They have the infrastructure, just like a lot of these
- 24 groups -- in fact, more so. They have the best
- 25 infrastructure in the state to engage in this practice,

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- 1 but then simultaneously can act as a vendor to get the
- 2 money back. No private associations can go and do that
- 3 and then turn around and say, well, we're going to be
- 4 your vendor. And if they do it, they do it even at
- 5 their own peril and will probably get into a lot of
- 6 trouble in engaging in such an activity. The party is
- 7 the only one, and so there's no reason to allow for
- 8 this practice to continue.
- 9 And some of the specific examples that are
- 10 brought up, you know, well, the party is providing all
- 11 these things. Well, one example is, you know, charging
- 12 for political events. In my experience, usually
- 13 candidates or elected officials never pay to go to
- 14 political events related to parties. They don't --
- 15 they rarely do, if ever. That's just been my
- 16 experience watching it. When it comes to -- when it
- 17 comes to voter information, the reality is most voter
- 18 information you can get for free.
- 19 I don't engage with a lot of candidates on
- 20 a direct level running campaigns anymore, but back
- 21 there when I did, I volunteered to help people out with
- 22 campaigns, a lot of times shoestring campaigns. We got
- 23 voter lists for free. We didn't pay anything. We
- 24 could go to the party who would provide it for free or
- 25 we'd work with the county or others and try to make

- 1 flexibility to raise money, do things, have events and
- 2 generate war chests that private organizations cannot
- 3 do. And if they're not using that money to assist the
- 4 candidates -- and the only reason the party exists is
- 5 to get the people under that banner to win, then why do
- 6 they exist? There's no reason that any of this money
- 7 should be going to political parties.
- 8 In conclusion I'll just say, you know, this
- 9 doesn't address the abusive spread. I mean, the road
- 10 map is there. There's several districts that are
- 11 rather uncompetitive, difficult to win, and so they're
- 12 long-shot campaigns. Why not use your infrastructure
- 13 that you have in place, help that candidate out collect
- 14 their 5s, which you can do, and help channel them to
- 15 that candidate, get them qualified. And then if you 16 opt -- opt for B or C, charge them five grand for a
- 17 voter list they probably could have got for basically
- **18** nothing or free.
- And how are you going to measure that? I
- 20 mean, how do you value a voter list from the party? I
- 21 can just say it's five grand. Why not? I'll just do
- 22 that for all the candidates. It will be a standard
- 23 rate. We'll assist you to get your money, get your
- 24 20 -- a little over 20,000 bucks. We'll charge you
- 25 five grand. How are you going to prove that that's the

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- 1 sure that we can get the lists that were needed to help
- 2 them with their candidate.
- 3 I ran as a PC once. I'm retired. So I'll
- 4 never be a PC again, but the voter list that I used was
- 5 from the party to go around and know who the -- you
- 6 know, registered voters were in my neighborhood so I
- 7 can become a registered PC. All this information can
- 8 be acquired but at no cost. Lots of -- or you can
- 9 hire, you know, a hired gun -- one sitting right behind
- 10 me -- that you can use and they all have a lot of lists
- 11 and they don't charge a lot of times for these lists
- 12 because they have the lists themselves and they'll use
- 13 them and that's part of the process.
- And on a logistical support, well, frankly,
- 15 if you're a political party and you don't exist by the
- 16 very nature to provide logistical support, then you
- 17 should just disband because that's the only reason
- 18 you're really there really is to provide lists and
- 19 logistical support and do those things. If you're not
- 20 doing that, then you have no reason to exist to help
- 21 these candidates out.
- 22 Under state law and federal law the
- 23 political parties have engineered the system where they
- 24 are exempt from most of the campaign finance laws that
- 25 everybody else is handcuffed to. They have far more

- 1 appropriate amount charged for that list when the
- 2 reality is you hired a consultant? You -- you know,
- 3 normally you go work with the party. You work with the
- 4 county. You work with other people. You have friends.
- 5 You can get those lists for practically nothing or free
- 6 which in many instances I was able to get them for
- 7 free.
- 8 So with that, I believe Option A is the
- 9 only appropriate option.
- 10 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman?
- 11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner
- 12 Kimble.
- 13 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Mussi, a couple
- 14 of questions. First of all, you said there's been
- 15 widespread abuse.
- 16 Can you detail some instances of this
- 17 abuse, in what races and how there was abuse?
- 18 MR. MUSSI: Well, we did an analysis and
- 19 looked through all the campaign finance reports in the
- 20 pre general back in the fall and found instances where
- in an aggregate over \$80,000 had been channeled to the
- 22 Democrat party. The Republican party, I couldn't find
- 23 any instances of any direct funds going to the
- 24 Republican party. It was all on the Democrat side.
- 25 Post general, a follow-up look, it was over \$100,000.

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- 1 One specific candidate gave over -- gave 30,000 bucks
- 2 for -- to the state party. And so I've never seen --
- 3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Excuse me. So
- 4 was that a traditional candidate or a clean candidate?
- 5 MR. MUSSI: Clean candidate.
- 6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Thank
- **7** you.
- 8 MR. MUSSI: Clean. And, again, I couldn't
- 9 find anything on the other side of the ledger, which if
- 10 I'm on the other side of the ledger and I'm the
- 11 Republican party, I'm going this is a great idea.
- 12 We've got to get into the business. And -- and they
- 13 will. I mean -- and if you allow them to charge for
- 14 voter lists and the logistical support, whatever that
- 15 is, which they shouldn't be charging for at all --
- 16 that's -- I mean, frankly, that's what parties exist
- 17 for, they're going to keep doing it. And why not?
- 18 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. My second
- 19 question, if all this information is available for
- 20 free, nothing in any of these options requires
- 21 candidates to buy it from a political party. If they
- 22 can get if from somewhere else for free, fine. I don't
- 23 understand what your objection is. This gives them the
- 24 option to get it from a political party, but if they
- 25 can get it from someone from free. We're not -- none

- 1 I mean, really, you're going out and you're
- 2 just helping them to gather some 5s and do some
- 3 logistical. You're getting some -- you're make sure
- 4 you're getting people on the ballot in noncompetitive
- 5 races. If we only have a 70 percent success rate, hey,
- 6 that's money in our pocket that we didn't have before.
- 7 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you.
- 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Mr. Mussi, and I
- 9 think -- I just want to make sure I'm understanding
- 10 you. I think this is what Commissioner Paton was
- 11 saying.
- So are you saying that -- I think you're
- 13 saying Dems are doing this. So Dems are finding
- 14 candidates in noncompetitive races where they know that
- 15 candidate can't win. They get that person on the
- 16 ballot, get that person's Clean Elections money and
- 17 then try to funnel that money into the party.
- 18 Is that what you're saying is happening?
- MR. MUSSI: I'm saying that the -- I'm
- 20 saying that there isn't -- there isn't a smoking gun
- 21 where you can say here's emails that demonstrate that
- 22 that occurred and that was the arrangement, but it
- 23 wouldn't be difficult to connect the dots on this
- 24 how -- what -- the numbers you see on there don't make
- 25 any sense.

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- 1 of these options say you have to get it from political
- 2 parties and you have to pay their rate for it.
- 3 MR. MUSSI: Well, and to that point, my
- 4 response to that would be is that's how a lot of these
- 5 things will work because you're dealing with people
- 6 that aren't experienced. May be they are just a party
- 7 activist. They're involved with the party and the
- 8 party asks them, hey, if you run we'll help you with
- 9 your campaign and we'll do all those things. And so
- when you get into the race, the party goes to them andbasically because they're the ones that assisted them
- 11 Dasically because they ie the ones that assisted the
- 12 to help them run, they have an inside track to get
- 13 access to that money.
- 14 And from the -- from that person's
- 15 perspective -- I know that they can get the list for
- 16 free, but if the party is telling them the list costs
- 17 \$5,000, that's the only thing they know. And so
- 18 they're going to rely on that -- that source of
- 19 information, that guidance that they're getting from
- 20 the party. So what will end up happening is, sure,
- 21 maybe the party will run some candidates and they run
- 22 ten and eight choose to buy the list. The two do some
- 23 due diligence to find that they're getting ripped off 24 by the party, that's -- from the party's perspective,
- 25 that's worth the risk.

- 1 If I was -- for example, if I was running
- 2 an opponent campaign and I looked at this kind of stuff
- 3 and the person was traditional and they were paying
- 4 some of these rates that were being paid to the
- 5 Democrat party, I would be, like, whoever that
- 6 consultant is, they're being ripped off. They're
- 7 getting totally ripped off. They're getting hosed,
- 8 much to our benefit, but from the party's perspective,
- 9 unlike in those instances where a consultant is just
- 10 enriching themselves, this instance the political party
- 11 can take your money and channel it into competitive
- **12** districts.
- 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: To a different
- 14 district.
- MR. MUSSI: In a different district.
- 16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Yeah.
- MR. MUSSI: And do it that way and why not.
- **18** Again, you might not get all 100 percent, but if you
- 19 can get 70 percent, that's additional -- a little bit
- 20 into the war chest that you can use in those
- 21 competitive races.
- **22** ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: I understand.
- 23 Thank you.
- 24 MR. MUSSI: Okay.
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Anyone else have

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- 1 any questions? Commissioners Chan?
- 2 MR. COLLINS: Can I --
- 3 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Oh, not for Mr. Mussi.
- 4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted
- 5 to make -- to amplify one point that Mr. Mussi made
- 6 with respect to the parties that is relevant to this
- 7 discussion which is -- well, there's two points,
- 8 really. One, he's correct that under the bills that
- 9 passed in 20 -- was it '16 now? The parties have much
- 10 more flexibility in who they can raise money from and
- 11 that they can then use in coordinated campaigns with
- 12 candidates. They can't write direct checks from
- 13 corporate accounts to candidates, but they can run
- 14 coordinated campaigns with nominees.
- 15 And that's new and that's expanded, and our
- 16 rules, consistent with 1516, recognize that. So there
- 17 is, in fact, a mechanism, if you will, for parties --
- 18 it kicks in under the law once you've made it to the
- 19 nominating process, but that does exist. That's a --
- 20 that's a correct statement of the law as I understand
- 21 it as well.
- 22 The other point I wanted to summarize
- 23 quickly before, I guess, we'll move on to Mr. Querard,
- 24 I assume, is, you know, all of these rules are premised
- 25 on the idea that we're talking about clean funds. So

- 1 they're basically regulated monopolies in the political
- 2 sphere. The system is set up to create a two-party
- 3 system. For better or worse, that's what we have, and
- 4 both parties being interest groups have manufactured
- 5 laws over the decades to make sure and protect their
- 6 turf. And so I think it precedes anything that's
- 7 happened in the last two years. It goes back 60.
- 8 MR. COLLINS: Fair enough. Thank you.
- 9 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman?
- 10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Yes,
- 11 Commissioner Chan.
- 12 COMMISSIONER CHAN: This isn't a question
- 13 for Mr. Mussi, but, you know, his comment about the
- 14 widespread abuse of money being funneled to the party,
- 15 I just would be interested in asking our staff to just
- 16 kind of take a look into that, if it's possible.
- 17 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner,
- 18 Chan, we had a complaint filed by Mr. Querard that we
- 19 heard -- October, was it? And what we did in that
- 20 case, we --
- 21 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Is this talking about
- **22** the 80 grand?
- MR. COLLINS: Yes, yes.
- 24 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
- MR. COLLINS: So just to sort of summarize

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- 1 there is seed money that you could spend on all of
- 2 these rules just like any other candidate could and
- 3 that money remains available to you to spend however
- 4 you choose because if you don't qualify that money is
- 5 just contributions.
- 6 Finally, we do hope -- and I can -- after
- 7 we're done with the public comment I'd like to revisit
- 8 some of the nuances of C versus B, but I do want to
- 9 mention that the next item is the audit -- is the
- 10 expanding of the audits which I think is an important
- 11 context here because if the concern is that there are
- 12 funnelings and rip-offs and all these things that we
- 13 haven't been able to establish in the past, we are
- 14 doing what we can within the -- on the back end to
- **15** ensure that there's -- those things do get caught.
- So that's some context, but I do want to
- 17 make clear that I think Mr. Mussi is absolutely correct
- 18 about the parties' broader abilities under -- under
- 19 state law now to raise money from different sources and
- 20 channel that money through to their nominees in certain
- **21** ways.
- 22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Mr. Mussi, go
- 23 ahead.
- MR. MUSSI: Yeah, just one last comment on
- 25 that. I believe that even prior to that they've had --

- 1 what happened, Mr. Querard filed a complaint.
- 2 Mr. Mussi did some reporting about that complaint on
- 3 his -- through the Free Enterprise Club's
- 4 communications. We did a couple of different things to
- 5 focus on that particular issue. We -- those candidates
- 6 were subject to audit. We subjected their payments to
- 7 the democratic party to additional auditing of8 transactions which was, frankly, if I may be a
- 9 little -- I mean, not to be too overly candid, it's
- 10 something that I don't think the executive directors
- 11 have done sua sponte before, but we did it.
- We -- we received evidence that was
- 13 competent under Rule 702 and 703 related to those
- 14 expenditures that, you know, left us in a position
- 15 where we were unable to show that there was reason to
- 16 believe a violation may have occurred. And so on that
- 17 basis, the Commission voted ultimately to -- to not
- 18 move forward on that complaint.
- 19 Now, that having been said, I think as --
- 20 as Representative Leach has pointed out, other folks
- 21 who have spoken have pointed out and Mr. Mussi has
- 22 mentioned -- you know, I'm not going to pretend like
- 23 our -- I mean, I have -- Mr. Mussi and I have -- I
- 24 mean, in full disclosure, Mr. Mussi and I have gone

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- 1 investigation was versus whether or not it was good,
- 2 but that having been said, whether -- whether you think
- 3 that our work product was sufficient and whether or not
- 4 the Democrats provided sufficient evidence, regardless
- 5 of whether or not that is true, it doesn't eliminate
- 6 the issue which I think folks are talking about which
- 7 is the perception issue and the fact that if you're
- 8 having a Clean Elections system, you do -- as much as
- 9 you might not like the word "optics," it's not wrong to
- 10 say that they're optics.
- Now, when we're done with the public
- 12 comment, I will have a few more things to say about
- 13 Option C that go to that optics issue, but I don't
- 14 think anyone is going to sit here -- and I certainly
- 15 can't deny that based upon, you know, Mr. -- or
- 16 Representative Leach's proposals, Mr. Querard's
- 17 complaint and Mr. Mussi's reporting, if you will, that
- 18 there's not a perception issue that, you know, we have
- 19 on our plate. That just exists. That's just the
- 20 reality.
- 21 COMMISSIONER CHAN: And, Mr. Chairman, Tom,
- 22 is it accurate -- or I don't know if you know this off
- 23 the top of your head -- that there were no such
- 24 payments to the Republican party by clean candidates?
- 25 MR. COLLINS: Well, we certainly --

- 1 Republican Clean Elections candidates who did have
- 2 expenditures to the Republican party, to legislative
- 3 district parties for the Republicans. So they may have
- 4 been for events or things like that, but there were
- 5 payments to the Republican party.
- 6 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Okay. Thank you.
- 7 Thank you. And I'm sorry. I will let that go. I
- 8 apologize if I took us off on a tangent.
- 9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: That's all
- 10 right. We're good at that.
- 11 Let's go next to Mr. Querard.
- MR. COLLINS: Yeah. That would be more
- 13 sufficient.
- 14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Did I say that
- 15 correctly?
- MR. QUERARD: That is -- that is very good.
- 17 Thank you.
- 18 First, forgive the casual appearance. I'm
- 19 sort of tripled booked and one of the things I've got
- 20 to do is outside. So I'm sure everyone here is --
- 21 COMMISSIONER CHAN: To go to the bathroom?
- MR. QUERARD: -- three-piece suit worthy no
- 23 matter what the temperature is.
- One of Mr. Mussi's concerns had to do about
- 25 candidates getting ripped off by the party, but what we

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- 1 Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Chan, we certainly didn't
- 2 get a complaint on that. We got some complaints
- 3 against Republican leaning independent expenditure
- 4 groups for reporting. Those issues were all resolved
- 5 by either conciliation or, in one case, a dismissal by
- 6 me based upon that group's filing reports. And, in
- 7 effect, they were in the process of winding down.
- 8 And it was -- you know, we had -- so the
- 9 complaints we got against sort of what I would call
- 10 Republican leaning as well as one of the leadership
- 11 PACs, the Republican party -- maybe two of them -- and
- 12 then one leadership PAC that belongs to Governor Brewer
- 13 that was winding down, those were all resolved by
- 14 conciliation and/or my own dismissal based on my
- 15 assessment of the -- of their compliance, but not
- 16 complaints along the lines of that which Mr. Querard
- 17 filed against the candidates who were running clean as
- 18 Democrats.
- 19 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Okay. And maybe --
- 20 maybe Sara has something to add. And I'm sorry. Maybe
- 21 that's not even productive. I was just curious and I
- 22 know we have a lot more to do.
- MS. LARSEN: Good morning, Chairman. To
- 24 answer Ms. Chan's question, we've reviewed the campaign
- 25 finance reports and we did note that there were

- 1 dealt with with the 2016 complaint was actually part --
- 2 was actually candidates who are very willingly going
- 3 along with things. No one was -- no one was ripped off
- 4 or duped. They knew darn good and well what they were
- 5 paying for and defended it in writing. Interestingly
- 6 enough, only Clean Election candidates who, frankly,
- 7 weren't spending their own money were the ones willing
- 8 to pay those prices for the products offered.
- 9 So while it's possible that some folks can
- 10 get ripped off, I think the real more danger is just
- 11 people who willing go along with this to serve a party.
- 12 You won't -- I don't have any friends who would pull
- 13 this off so that they and I could, you know, pocket an
- 14 extra ten grand and split it afterwards.
- 15 I don't have any friends who would risk
- 16 jail time for that or do me some favor, but if you --
- 17 if you're a believer in some cause and you think you're
- 18 helping your party and you're going to stop Hillary or
- 19 you're going to stop Trump or whatever, I'm never
- 20 surprised at just how hard people are willing to work
- 21 to do that. And if that means you're told, hey,
- 22 there's this thing; you could be a candidate and it's23 great for the party and all that stuff, we could see a
- 24 lot more of what we saw in 2016.
- 25 I'm not aware of any outside vendors who

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- 1 give the data away for free. It's the parties
- 2 generally that do that. Parties give data away for
- 3 free all the time. Every precinct committeeman has
- 4 access to the data for their precinct. Every
- 5 legislative district chairman has access to the
- 6 district for their legislative district. Every county
- 7 chairman gets data for their full county so they can do
- 8 their jobs.
- 9 So the state party routinely gives data
- 10 away for free, but some parties will choose on occasion
- 11 to charge for it as a way of generating revenue.
- 12 Again, sort of to cover costs, recover costs, pay for
- 13 their day-to-day services. There really wasn't -- you
- 14 know, when we saw this last time was a lot of training
- 15 and stuff that went on and resulted in the tens of
- 16 thousands of dollars.
- Option A can work for everybody, okay? The
- 18 parties, again, routinely give their data away;
- 19 however, in fairness to the Democrats, when Obama first
- 20 got elected, the Democrat party centralized a lot of
- 21 their data, refined it. Everybody was using the same
- 22 database by and large. So everybody was massaging the
- 23 same data and on the Democrat side, I know that there
- 24 is one particular data house the Democrats use that has
- 25 better quality data than a lot of stuff. And a lot of

- 1 data, you can count on it to be at fair market value.
- 2 That's what we charge for data and they can show that
- 3 everyone is paying the same for the same quantities of
- 4 data, similar size districts, similar sorts of lists,
- 5 that sort of thing. Once you move beyond that, it's
- 6 easy enough to set up a price list with exorbitant
- 7 prices that only the sacrificial lambs happen to be
- 8 customers of, okay?
- The legit candidates that are running to
- 10 win are using private vendors, paying much better
- 11 prices, but it's easy for the party to charge a very
- 12 consistent, albeit insane, rate for things if the only
- 13 people paying it are the ones who don't really care.
- 14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Give us an
- **15** example of how that could happen.
- 16 MR. QUERARD: If I tell you -- instead of
- 17 paying two and a half cents for a phone call, we're all
- 18 going to pay six cents for a phone call because that's
- 19 my party's cost. How do you know? Well, I got a guy
- 20 and I pay him 50 grand a year and all he does is phone
- 21 calls. How do you know? Because I told you and you
- 22 have to take my word for it like we did with a lot of
- 23 stuff that was filed. You don't have the man's time
- 24 sheets. You don't sit there. You don't know that he's
- 25 not just doing phones. He's doing data. He runs --

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- 1 the Democratic candidates want access to that and they
- **2** don't give that away.
- 3 So it could be that while Option A can work
- 4 for everybody, Option B may be more fair because
- 5 Democrats want access to a particular set of data that
- 6 they can't get for free. Again, I think the party
- 7 actually pays for access to that because when they have
- 8 their PCs out knocking on doors for free, they're
- 9 massaging that same data set, but I know there's a
- 10 price list for it. We saw it last time. I'm happy to
- 11 assume that the Democrats can't get that for free.
- And so if Option B would have to be an
- 13 option out of fairness to Democrats, that's fine. The
- 14 problem is the protection you get in Option B because
- 15 there's a price list and everybody pays the same, it
- 16 doesn't exist once you move to Option C and you expand
- 17 it beyond data. If you have a price list for data,
- 18 then your fake candidates and your real candidates are
- 19 all buying data off that same price list. You're not
- 20 going to gouge the sacrificial lambs and simultaneously
- 21 gouge the candidates that are trying to run to win
- 22 because they're going to be unwilling to be gouged,
- **23** okav?
- 24 So your -- a price list for data where
- 25 everybody participates and everybody is buying that

- 1 you know, I may pay the guy 50,000 a year, but he's got
- 2 ten responsibilities, one tiny one of which is
- 3 operating the auto dialer, but you don't know that.
- 4 If I say he's my auto dialer guy and,
- 5 therefore, I work 50,000 of the party cost into the
- 6 cost of my auto dialers and everybody is going to pay
- 7 six cents instead of two and a half like they ought to?
- 8 Now you know. That's just the cost. There's no
- 9 markup. That's my cost.
- One of the problems with Option C is that
- 11 you don't just say cost. You say "value" and, of
- 12 course, value is an entirely different thing from cost.
- 13 Value is subjective. Training has almost no cost.
- **14** Pizza, doughnuts, a room rental, those are my costs.
- 15 You bring me in to run the training, am I \$50 an hour?
- 16 Am I \$5,000 an hour? It's up to me. Now that becomes
- 17 your cost, but was that really the value of the
- **18** training?
- **19** So, unfortunately, value is really easy to
- 20 play games with. Cost, it's pretty easy to pad an
- 21 invoice to include some markup in an invoice. Vendors
- 22 can pad invoices, but again, if you're figuring out the
- 23 value, that's very -- very difficult for you guys to
- 24 please. If I hire three or four people to run this25 program, as far you know, all of those costs become a

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- 1 part of the cost of the program, but you have no way of
- 2 verifying that those people are doing just that.
- You have to take my word for it, but I'm
- 4 the one running the scheme. I'm the one person you
- 5 shouldn't be taking the word of because I'm the one
- 6 you're investigating and I'm the only person whose
- 7 opinion -- I'm basically the only person you can go to
- 8 for verification that I'm doing it right because I'm
- 9 going to say, yeah, this is my auto dialer guy and
- 10 that's why it's six cents a minute. And you really
- 11 have no way of pleasing that.
- 12 That's one of the problems, you know. Even
- 13 at the end of the investigations -- I forget, but a
- 14 couple of the commissioners were pointing out that even
- 15 at the end of things, you're sitting there saying we're
- 16 frustrated because we still don't actually know what
- 17 this money was spent for. We don't know what the Clean
- 18 Elections money actually bought. You'll have that same
- **19** problem here.
- 20 I'll give you mail at cost. Well, I can
- 21 have a printing invoice and I can pad that maybe. The
- 22 mail house, not really. Postage is what postage is.
- 23 You get that receipt from the post office. That's the
- 24 date, the number of pieces. That's what it was. You
- 25 can count on that. That's probably the only reliable

- 1 every Clean Elections candidate who's ever gotten
- 2 elected in the state did so without whatever advantage
- 3 this program in 2016 was supposed to lend.
- And the performance of the candidates who
- 5 did this program in 2016 was abysmal because, no
- 6 surprise, instead of actually putting measures in front
- of voters, they spent it all in training, okay? If you
- drop half your money into training, well, it's no
- surprise you get crushed in your race. So I don't
- think it places anybody at a disadvantage. We elected
- Clean Elections candidates all the time without this.
- So, also, we're pointing out that the
- 13 serious candidates who were running and winning in a
- 14 lot of cases did so without this program, okay? They
- didn't need Option C. In fact, most serious candidates
- showed no apparent interest in Option C whatsoever.
- So I guess there's still a lot of the
- concerns that we mentioned before which is I don't
- think you want to create financial incentives for the
- parties to run candidates. I don't know of any party
- that has so little to do that they actually want to
- take on more work at cost in such a way that it
- generates no actual revenue. There's so much to do to
- 24 win elections at the party level. And I've been a
- 25 district chairman. I've been on the county executive

2 So I can speak from an internal standpoint on the

We don't need more to do when you're in the

5 party trying to run victory programs. You're certainly

6 not looking to run races in addition to everything else

9 because there's just so much to do. The only reason

11 generating revenue which is what we're trying to say

consultants. These guys can help you go win your race

you're doing. You're saying here's a list of

10 you would take this on really is for the sake of

1 committee. I've been on the state executive committee.

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3 parties as well.

- 1 documentation in the cost of a mailing you can
- 2 document, but design, well, am I 10, \$20 an hour? Am I
- 3 \$150 an hour? Did that piece take me ten hours? Did
- 4 that piece take me 100 hours? You have no way of
- 5 knowing. You could never verify that.
- So my design costs for a piece could be
- 7 \$100. It could \$1,500 for a piece. Both are fair.
- 8 Both are market value. Both are valued paid. Both
- **9** have no markup whatsoever. Both are completely
- 10 unverifiable, but obviously there's a huge difference

- 15 spending money as freely as they did in 2016, you're
- 16 good. You're happy to sign an affidavit saying I'm
- 17 satisfied with the product I got, and that's the
- problem with Option C. 18
- 19 There were some concerns that passing
- 20 Option C will place Clean Elections candidates at a
- 21 disadvantage. I think I probably elected more Clean
- 22 Elections candidates in the state than anybody. Never
- 23 had to use these things. There's no -- there's no
- 24 requirement that it's -- in fact, prior to 2016, what 25 we saw had never been seen before which means that

- 11 and we don't ever get to know. I know that if you're a 12 customer spending your own money with a private vendor 13 and somebody hands you a bill for 1,500 for design, 14 you're going to have a problem with that, but if you're
- You don't want to create financial

12 you're not supposed to do.

- 14 incentives for parties to coerce candidates into using
- their products. That obviously tilts the playing field
- and creates -- creates bad things. I'm just afraid
- this is going to work the process in a really bad way
- and, like we talked about before, you guys pass
- 19 whatever rules you pass, but if you go Option C you
- 20 need to be prepared to see a lot of this in both
- 21 parties because the parties learn from each other,
- **22** okav?
- 23 And if you're a county party and you don't
- 24 have a whole lot of money but you realize you're in for
- 25 a couple hundred thousand bucks, you can find some

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- 1 sacrificial lambs in some districts and it gets legit.
- 2 It is sanctioned. It is in the rules. It's okay. You
- 3 know, you're going to see a lot more of it and that --
- 4 that really violates the spirit of Clean Elections.
- 5 So that's -- those are my comments on A, B
- 6 and C. I think I'm the only consultant in here. So no
- 7 surprise I'm the only fellow with a comment on the
- 8 consultant rule. So I will -- I will shift to that.
- **9** This is a rule that appears to be designed
- 10 to treat a problem that doesn't exist. In fact, it
- 11 treats a problem that has never been the subject of any
- 12 Clean Elections complaint for as long as I've been
- 13 involved, which is going back quite a ways. And I've
- 14 been the subject of enough complaints that this is one
- 15 they haven't even filed against me. So this is really
- 16 a problem that simply does not exist.
- 17 It does add more hassle to the process. It
- 18 gives candidates and consultants another reason to
- 19 think I don't know if running clean is worth the
- 20 hassle, frankly, which is bad because it discourages
- 21 participation which not only is contradictory to the
- 22 mission statement but kind of defeats the whole purpose
- 23 of what we're doing. It contains language that largely
- 24 says the things that are already legal are legal. You
- 25 can hire somebody. Okay. We know that. You can pay

- 1 my printers in advance. My printers don't give me
- 2 invoices in advance. I don't know my fixed costs until
- 3 the job is done. I don't know my actual cost until a
- 4 job is done.
- Then I mark it up and I present you an
- 6 invoice, but I know that it's not going to exceed
- 7 \$8,000. I know you have at least \$8,000 so we're
- 8 legal. I know the postage in my head because the list
- 9 is about however many thousands of pieces and it's
- 10 going to run me just under 20 cents per piece, so I can
- 11 ballpark that and then I can get you an invoice that
- 12 has the exact amounts. You pay me and we're good. No
- 13 more. I can no longer tell you that. If I tell you
- 14 that and you send me the money, we're in violation.
- 15 I have to stop what I'm doing. I have to
- 16 write down a written estimate to give you a written
- 17 estimate because of a bureaucracy that is ever growing
- 18 in Clean Elections that wants to make this process more
- 19 difficult on us says, oh, no, you can't tell them.
- 20 You've got to write it down. I mean, if they pay you a
- 21 check based on what you said instead of what was
- 22 written down, you are now in violation. What problem
- 23 are we solving? This has never been the subject of a
- 24 complaint anyway. So, again, it's almost rules for
- 25 rules' sake.

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- 1 somebody for the work they do. Okay. We know that.
- 2 Obviously, you have to keep invoices and
- 3 receipts because we know that. Clean Elections
- 4 requires that. It's in the books. It's in the rules.
- 5 It's in the training that we get, but now we've added
- 6 some specific requirements that it's not enough to know
- 7 the amount. You have to get the invoice before you
- 8 write the check. You can't get the invoice the day
- 9 after you write the check. If you write -- get the 10 invoice after you pay the amount, then it's not
- 11 considered a direct campaign expense anymore.
- **12** Suddenly it's a violation. It's no longer
- 13 a legitimate expense because the timing was off. The
- 14 amount is fine. If I tell you I need \$5,000 because
- 15 we've got to deposit it in the postage account to get
- 16 your mailing out and when that's done, obviously we get
- 17 the actual amounts and we -- you get a final invoice
- 18 for the amounts due.
- You know, the way the process works is
- 20 you're not allowed to spend money you don't have. So
- 21 you say I want to send out a mailer. I say it's going
- 22 to be about \$8,000. Do you have \$8,000? Yeah, I've 23 got \$10,000. Great. Okay. We can do -- about 4,000
- 24 of that has got to go in the postage account to make
- 25 sure that the mail goes out on time because I don't pay

- 1 The Commission now wants copies of all --
- 2 of all voter communications that are sent out that
- 3 are -- that are mailers or invitations but not TV, not
- 4 radio, not online, not signs, not phone calls, not
- 5 newspaper ads, not -- just mailers and invitations. If
- 6 you're doing a mailer, we want to get copied on the
- 7 mailers and if you don't send us a mailer, you're in
- 8 violation.
- 9 So if I do a mailer and I forget to put you
- 10 on the list, my candidate is in violation for breaking
- 11 Clean Elections rules because I forgot to put you on
- 12 the list. Why am I going through this hassle? Because
- 13 you want a copy of a mailer. For what purpose? I
- 14 don't know. Nobody has complained about anything. The
- 15 fact of the matter is that if someone files a
- 16 complaint, you're already entitled to ask them for
- 17 copies of all of these things and they have to provide
- 18 them to you to answer the complaint so you can
- **19** investigate and resolve the matter.
- 20 Collecting things because someday there
- 21 might be a complaint and we want it in advance doesn't
- 22 get you any information you couldn't get by just
- 23 waiting until you actually need it and saying give me
- 24 copies of your mailers. That's always available. So
- 25 now you're going to get a whole lot of stuff in the

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- 1 office that you're going to keep for -- why again? And
- 2 if we forget to send you one, it's just another
- 3 opportunity for us to accidentally get in trouble,
- 4 accidentally get in trouble which is sort of the final
- And that's -- and that's -- there's sort of
- 7 a trap door both in Option C of the first thing and in
- 8 the consultant rule. Every time there's a chance for a
- 9 violation, even inadvertent, a candidate, sometimes a
- 10 consultant finds itself at the mercy of the Commission
- 11 that may or may not be fair. You guys have been, I
- 12 think, pretty darn good. I haven't necessarily agreed
- 13 with every decision you've made, but I think you've
- 14 been thoughtful. I think you've been fair. I think
- 15 it's been thoughtful. I think it's been even.
- You don't treat one party or one idealogy 16
- 17 different from the others. It has not always been that
- 18 way, okay? It may not always been that way -- be that
- 19 way. And so if I'm in a situation where potentially,
- 20 I'm sorry, that invoice was sent out after you wrote
- 21 the check, not before, therefore, you're in violation
- 22 and potentially at risk for what? A repayment of the
- 23 amount? Have I overspent by more than 10 percent? Do
- 24 I lose my office? What risks am I taking?
- 25 So, again, now we're back to consultants

- 1 run clean or traditional. They rely on our opinions in
- 2 that regard.
- If you make it to where the consultants 3
- 4 start to feel like it's not worth the consultant's
- time, I don't want -- I don't want consultants steering
- candidates away from clean because it's just not worth
- the hassle for consultants, you know. I'm a Clean
- Elections champion and I've taken a lot of grief for
- that as a conservative. So I like the system to keep
- working for everybody and we just keep baby stepping
- 11 away from that.
- 12 I stand for any questions.
- 13 **ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER:** Any questions
- **14** for Mr. Querard?
- 15 Commissioner Paton.
- COMMISSIONER PATON: So you don't have any 16
- 17 problems, really, with B.
- What would be a legitimate amount? I mean,
- because, you know, I forgot this gentleman's name, but
- he said that you could make a fantastic price for that,
- for their voter list. He says you can get it for free.
- In my experience, people got it from the party. They
- charged them a little bit. I mean, this isn't very
- 24 much, is it?
- 25 MR. QUERARD: Again, A or B works. The

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- 1 trying to advise their clients and saying I've got to
- 2 tell you it's not worth the risk, okay? You don't get
- 3 the matching funds anymore. There's a lot more
- 4 paperwork. There's a lot more reporting. You're
- 5 subject to this additional bureaucracy and, by the way,
- 6 now we've got to have all these steps and if we miss
- 7 one of these steps, I've got to tell you, even if it's
- 8 my mistake, you're on the hook for thousands of dollars
- 9 or potentially you've got to give it all back or
- 10 potentially you win and you get kicked out of office to
- 11 solve a problem that doesn't exist.
- And so the potential punishment for 12
- 13 violating these, again, I don't think you guys would do
- 14 it, but you're writing the rules that the next
- 15 Commission is going to use and I don't know how they
- 16 would treat it. So that's sort of one of the -- one of
- 17 the dangers of what we're doing here. We're trying to
- 18 fix a very specific problem.
- 19 Option A or B does it. Option C leaves the
- 20 system open to really more of the same kind of abuse,
- 21 and Option D is, again, a rule in search of a problem
- 22 that doesn't exist but provides more -- more
- 23 disincentives for consultants and candidates to
- 24 participate. And I will tell you from a consultant
- 25 standpoint a lot of candidates will ask us should we

- 1 parties make data available for free to a lot of
- 2 people. They choose not to do so for candidates
- 3 sometimes. It depends. Some Republican party
- chairman, part of their running is and I'll make sure
- the candidates have free access to data, and then he
- gets it for free. Other people use it as a way of
- generating revenue.
- I think the protection to data that does
- exist for everything else is that particularly on the
- Democrat side and even on very partisan Republican -- I
- do want to be fair in this particular case -- I think a
- lot of them want access to that one specific database,
- the VAN or whatever it is. And there is a national
- price list for VAN. There is a state price list for
- VAN. Now, the state party may have a markup on that.
- This may or may not prohibit that. I don't really
- 17 care.
- The nice thing is that the legit candidates 18
- 19 and the sacrificial lambs are all paying this price.
- So because of that it makes it almost impossible for
- them to gouge their people. They can't gouge their
- candidates that are in serious knockdown, drag-out,
- 23 must win, swing district races. Okay? There's not 24 going to gouge Sean Bowie in District 18 because
- 25 they've got to keep that seat, but it's on the price

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- 1 list. And you can verify that for what you got, Sean
- 2 Bowie paid the same price as whoever has just thrown it
- 3 away against Steve Yarbrough for his Senate seat.
- So Option B has that protection because --
- 5 you know, the problem if you go to Option C is now
- 6 you're expanding it to a bunch of the products that no
- 7 serious candidate buys from the party. So the party
- 8 could have a price list except the prices are all
- 9 nonsense. And only the nonsense candidates pay
- 10 nonsense prices, but as nearly as you can tell, you
- 11 can't -- you can know that it's wrong, but you can't
- 12 prove that it's wrong, which means you're never going
- 13 to be able to take action against it.
- But with Option B, all the candidates, 14
- 15 legit, not, serious, not, sacrificial lambs, not,
- 16 they're all buying from the same list, and you have the
- 17 ability to look at that and say, okay, they're all
- 18 paying the same price or clearly you have gouged these
- 19 people and we can -- we can document that. So A is
- 20 better than B, but B is pleasible. You could -- that
- 21 was one of the challenges we had last time is what they
- 22 were doing -- it's almost I can see it, but I can't
- 23 prove it and so it's going to go. You can please B.
- 24 You will ---

25

COMMISSIONER PATON: So a legitimate price

- 1 comparison.
- MR. QUERARD: There's no way to compare.
- 3 There's no -- you have no way of showing that it's
- 4 legitimate.
- 5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Right.
- COMMISSIONER PATON: Just for my own
- 7 interest, though, are we talking thousands of dollars
- for that?
- MR. QUERARD: Potentially. It can be. For
- 10 a legislative candidate, it's probably more like
- hundreds. It could be 1,200, 1,500 if it's got a lot
- of good stuff on it. If you're a statewide candidate,
- a congressional candidate, it could be -- it could be
- thousands or potentially 10,000, 12,000, 50,000.
- 15 COMMISSIONER PATON: So Corporation
- **16** Commission or governor?
- 17 MR. QUERARD: It could be 10, 12, 15.
- COMMISSIONER PATON: Okay. 18
- MR. QUERARD: I think they paid -- the last 19
- 20 time I think it was 10 or 12 or something like that
- that the Corporation Commission candidates paid the
- 22 Democrat party for theirs.
- 23 COMMISSIONER PATON: Okay. Thank you.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Do any other 24
- 25 commissioners have questions for Mr. Querard?

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- 1 for that list is --
- MR. QUERARD: And I don't -- I don't know
- 3 because, again, a lot of the times on the Republican
- 4 side there's no charge. It depends on the quantity of
- 5 the data. It depends on the size of the list, if you
- 6 want 10,000 records or 100,000 records. Do you want
- 7 just the basic information? Do you want us to append
- 8 the 47 modifiers because you want to know if this
- 9 person identifies on all these various issues? You
- 10 want to know their magazine subscriptions. So it is an 11 a la carte thing depending on how much data you want
- 12 per person.
- 13 COMMISSIONER PATON: Okay.
- MR. QUERARD: But it's on a price list and
- 15 you can compare the purchases. You can go to the party
- 16 and say, Sean Bowie already paid for everything.
- COMMISSIONER PATON: Okay. Right. 17
- 18 MR. QUERARD: And you could see that the
- 19 pricing is consistent because serious candidates who
- 20 are watching every penny are customers just the same as
- 21 candidates who maybe don't care how the money is spent.
- 22 And you'll see that they've been charged the same
- 23 price. If it's something else where no serious
- 24 candidate shops there -- you know.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: There's no 25

- 1 (No response.)
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you. 2
- 3 I'm going to check on our court reporter if
- 4 we need to give her a few minutes. She's been going
- two hours straight so -- yes?
- Okay. Let's take a five-minute break and
- 7 we'll reconvene.
- 8 MR. COLLINS: Okay.
- 9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you.
- (Whereupon, a recess was taken in the 10
- 11 proceedings.)
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right.
- We're going to reconvene the meeting after a quick
- 14 five-minute break there.
- Just for all those in attendance, we are
- going to take a brief pause in the public comment. We
- are going to come back to that, but we're going to --
- due to some time constraints here, we're going to move
- ahead to Item Number VIII on the agenda which is a
- discussion -- excuse me -- discussion and possible
- 21 action on enforcement matter MUR17-01, Jesus Rubalcava.
- 22 Mr. Collins?
- 23 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Mr. Chairman.
- 24 commissioners, you have read the memo on why we and I
- 25 believe that there's reason to believe a violation may

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- 1 have occurred. We think that the audit and
- 2 Mr. Rubalcava's admissions respecting the audit and the
- 3 applicable statutes demonstrate that there's reason to
- 4 believe a violation may have occurred of numerous
- 5 significant statutes in 16-941(A), especially related
- 6 to contributions in -- that's page 2 -- and the primary
- 7 limit, the return of monies, the use of two bank
- 8 accounts and the general limit, among others.
- 9 So that's a high-level summary. If you --
- 10 I assume you've all read the memo. We're -- just to
- 11 give context here -- and I think there's a matrix of
- 12 our decision-making process from here to there. What
- 13 we're asking for today is authorization to conduct an
- 14 investigation, and what that means is that, you know,
- 15 these preliminary determinations, we'll be able to go
- 16 out and pursue those.
- 17 I can say we have not heard from
- 18 Mr. Rubalcava. We have confirmation from Federal
- 19 Express that he received these items. He may not be in
- 20 the state at this time, but he is well aware. We sent
- 21 him notice both last week and this week and all the
- 22 items. So he's, I think, well on notice about this.
- 23 And so I see -- personally I see no reason to delay
- 24 moving ahead with this. If you have questions for me
- 25 or Sara respecting the memo, we're happy to go over

- 1 to enforce our subpoenas in court because we have the
- 2 authority to subpoena and there's an administrative --
- 3 there's a law that allows us to pursue a court action,
- 4 if necessary, if there's no response. This may or may
- 5 not be ultimately necessary, but it seems to me that in
- 6 this particular case, we have an issue of -- I mean, I
- 7 think I can recognize just as -- we have an issue of
- 8 lack of responsiveness, and I don't want to -- it
- 9 doesn't make any sense to delay that authorization
- 10 until another meeting based upon where we stand.
- 11 I'm subject to correction by Ms. Karlson,
- 12 but that's my view.
- 13 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman?
- 14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Go ahead,
- 15 Commissioner Kimble.
- 16 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: I think the Staff's
- 17 work on this has been very comprehensive, clear, very
- 18 outstanding and very detailed. I move that the
- **19** Commission determine there is reason to believe that
- 20 violations may have occurred in MUR17-01, Jesus
- 21 Rubalcava.
- 22 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Second.
- 23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. We have a
- **24** motion and a second.
- 25 All in favor say aye.

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- 1 them or the process.
- 2 We're asking for two things today. We're
- 3 asking that the Commission determine that there is
- 4 reason to believe a violation may have occurred in
- 5 MUR17-01, Jesus Rubalcava, and are asking that the
- 6 Commission authorize me as executive director to be7 able to issue subpoenas and take testimony under oath
- 8 in order to thoroughly investigate this matter further
- 9 as we move to the next stage in this process.
- 10 So that's where we are. That's the
- 11 high-level summary unless -- if you have any -- if you
- 12 have questions, I'm happy to answer them at this point.
- 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Mr. Collins, who
- 14 does the examinations and the subpoenas?
- MR. COLLINS: The subpoenas can be issued
- 16 in two ways under our rules. I can issue a subpoena --
- 17 I can issue a subpoena as executive director. I can
- 18 also work with the Assistant Attorney General assigned
- 19 to the matter to issue -- to issue a subpoena. If a
- 20 subpoena is issued, there is a right on behalf of the
- 21 subpoenaed party to appeal that subpoena to you. And
- 22 then if they're unsatisfied with that, theoretically
- 23 they can challenge that subpoena in court.24 Additionally, under Title 12, it's my view
- 25 that we have the authority -- I don't have the cite --

- 1 (Chorus of ayes.)
- 2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All opposed?
- 3 (No response.)
- 4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. The
- 5 motion carries four-zero.
- 6 And, Tom, do we need another on the
- 7 subpoenas?
- 8 MR. COLLINS: We would recommend for
- 9 clarity that you -- that you expressly make that
- 10 authorization.
- 11 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Okay. Mr. Chairman,
- 12 I move we authorize the executive director and/or
- 13 counsel to issue subpoenas and take testimony under
- 14 oath in the investigation of MUR17-01, Jesus Rubalcava.
- 15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Is there a
- 16 second?
- 17 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I second that motion.
- 18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner
- 19 Chan seconds.
- There's a motion and a second.
- 21 All in favor say aye.
- **22** (Chorus of ayes.)
- 23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any opposition?
- 24 (No response.)
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Hearing none,

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- 1 motion carries four to zero.
- 2 Mr. Collins, anything further on Agenda
- 3 Item Number VIII?
- 4 MR. COLLINS: I don't have any. We
- 5 received some comment that I think you-all received via
- 6 email, and I think we're done with that issue. I don't
- 7 think there's anything else to add to it.
- 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. So now do
- 9 we want to jump back to Agenda Item Number VI and
- 10 continue the public comment?
- 11 MR. COLLINS: What I would recommend,
- 12 Mr. Chairman, if I may --
- 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Sure.
- MR. COLLINS: -- is if we could open the
- 15 docket on the audit rule because that's a pretty simple
- 16 process. I don't -- that's another business item we
- 17 can get out of the way.
- **18** ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Is that Item b?
- MR. COLLINS: That's item -- Item b.
- 20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: VI-b?
- 21 MR. COLLINS: Item VI-b. I don't think
- 22 there's -- I would -- with your indulgence, I'd like to
- 23 just survey the room if anybody is going to want to
- 24 comment on the opening of public comment on the audit
- 25 of legislative candidates.

- 1 second?
- 2 COMMISSIONER PATON: Second.
- 3 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Second.
- 4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay.
- 5 Commissioner Paton seconds.
- 6 All in favor say aye.
- 7 (Chorus of ayes.)
- 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any opposition?
- 9 (No response.)
- 10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Zero. Okay.
- 11 The motion carries four to zero.
- Okay. So back to public comment, and I
- 13 guess we should maybe let the -- let those in
- **14** attendance know what I propose that the Commission do
- 15 today is that we do not vote on these options. I've
- 16 heard some very meaningful commentary that I want to
- 17 give fair consideration to and I don't think I can do
- 18 that in the next 45 minutes. So I suggest that we take
- 19 the public comment from today, digest that and that we
- 20 consider this at the next meeting.
- 21 And as far as the issue of public comment,
- 22 I don't think we need any more public comment, but if
- 23 we're required to take any I think we should put a
- 24 limit of maybe two minutes per person on that. But
- 25 that's what I'm proposing. And so there will not be a

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- 1 Anyone? Anyone?
- 2 (No response.)
- 3 MR. COLLINS: Okay. So no one seems to
- 4 want to. So I would suggest, then, that we do that
- 5 item and then move back to the public comment, if that
- 6 works for everyone.
- 7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Sure. So we're
- 8 looking for a motion --
- 9 MR. COLLINS: It should be on page 1.
- 10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: -- to open -- to
- 11 adopt, correct? We're looking for a motion --
- MR. COLLINS: No. This is to open.
- 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Oh, excuse me.
- **14** A motion to open public comment on R2-20-402.01.
- 15 Correct?
- 16 MR. COLLINS: Correct. Yes.
- 17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Does
- **18** anyone want to make that motion?
- 19 COMMISSIONER CHAN: I'll make that motion.
- 20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner
- 21 Chan.
- 22 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman, I move
- 23 that we open public comment on R2-20-402.01 related to
- 24 auditing legislative participating candidates.
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Is there a

- 1 vote today. It is my recommendation.
- 2 And, Tom, I'd defer to you on your thoughts
- 3 on that.
- 4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, just to talk
- 5 about this as far as logistically doing that, first, I
- 6 don't believe that we need a vote to have Staff
- 7 direction on that because that's an agenda item. So
- 8 unless one of the commissioners objects to that course
- 9 of action, that's what we'll do.
- 10 And, Kara, do you think that seems fair?
- 11 MS. KARLSON: I'll correct you when I need
- **12** to.
- 13 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Secondly, I think
- 14 that -- I think that given -- if we are now -- and we
- 15 are -- going to continue with public comment, we've had
- 16 a lot and we have a number of people who have arrived
- 17 to make further public comment, is those folks who made
- 18 the record and made a record last week, I do believe
- 19 that what we will do on the -- on the agenda next month
- 20 is say that public comment and the sign-in will be
- 21 limited to two minutes per person because I think we've
- 22 had a fulsome discussion here today and we don't want23 to reinvent the wheel, but we do want to get everyone.
- 24 So this meeting will be for purposes of
- 25 saying everybody's piece and that will be the plan

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- 1 going forward without any objection from the Commission
- 2 on the next agenda item, which also means probably
- 3 we're going to have to have a July meeting. Thank you.
- 4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: We're here to
- 5 serve.
- 6 MR. COLLINS: But that would be -- I think
- 7 that's an acceptable plan to us as Staff and -- and as
- 8 long as we haven't made any procedural errors, which
- 9 apparently we haven't, then that's what we'll do.
- 10 So with that, as far as organizing public
- 11 comment here, I know that there are a number of folks
- **12** who have arrived who would like to comment. And I
- 13 don't know if there's anybody -- and I think Mr. McCain
- 14 has been waiting patiently. He's been here the whole
- 15 time. So I'd like to start with Mr. McCain and then we
- 16 have Ms. Blanc. We have Representative Salman and
- 17 maybe some other folks. Maybe Ms. Walton who would
- 18 want to testify so -- and then others who need to
- 19 testify, please make -- raise your hand as we go.
- 20 MR. McCAIN: Good morning, Commission and
- 21 chairman. My name is Barry McCain. I'm at 13750 South
- 22 Calumet, Arizona City.
- 23 I always listen before I talk and I'd like,
- 24 first thing, to say, thank you for what you've done.
- 25 As a candidate 30 -- 3 times -- the first time I broke

- 1 Tom, did you have someone to go next?
- 2 Thank you, Mr. McCain. Thank you.
- 3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I would -- I would,
- 4 just out of deference to Representative Salman and
- 5 Representative Blanc, whichever one of you prefers to
- 6 go first, you can choose between yourselves.
- 7 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Thank you so much
- 8 commissioners for your time. I am Representative
- 9 Blanc. There we go. Thank you.
- I don't know where to start. I've heard a
- 11 lot of things said and so I just want to begin to tell
- 12 you about me. Many of you got to hear some of that
- 13 information last month, I think, or whenever it was,
- 14 but I want to point out some -- give you a perspective
- 15 as a person who ran as a Clean Elections candidate.
- Number 1, I was not asked to run by the
- 17 Democratic party. I can thank Representative Salman
- 18 and Senator Mendez for having the courage to ask me to
- 19 run with them in a district that I have lived in for
- 20 over 20 years. I am a Tempe High graduate, Tempe
- 21 High's sits in my district, LD26. My students -- my
- 22 children are products of the Tempe elementary public
- 23 school sytem. They are both students at ASU. So I
- 24 understand and know my district really well. So Number
- 25 1, the Democratic party did not ask me to run.

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- 1 my back. The second time I watched being told for the
- 2 list that you are talking about, the list where
- 3 Democrats are -- because I'm a Democrat -- the first
- 4 time it was 600. The second time it was 800. And I
- 5 asked then is it going to be a thousand next time?
- 6 There has to be some common sense here and you're our
- 7 common sense.
- 8 A career in the military has taught me I
- 9 don't micromanage. I don't tell you how to do your
- 10 job, but I will tell you one thing that I ran for
- 11 office every time, including this time, to serve my
- 12 country. That's the main thing, and that's why I'm so
- 13 much in agreement with this Commission. The spirit of
- 14 representing our districts, if they don't intend on
- 15 doing it -- they come in anticipating money, I'm sorry.
- 16 I don't like that because that's not what this
- 17 Commission is about.
- 18 And you're my only safeguard and right now
- 19 we have people picking and choosing who's going to run
- 20 and they are not even qualified. They don't even show
- 21 up to capitol, but yet they want to run for the Senate
- 22 and the House. I have a problem with that, and you're
- 23 my only safeguard to get what's fair. And thank you
- **24** for that.
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Next --

- 1 Thank you Representative Salman and Senator
- 2 Mendez for the courage to asking me to run.
- 3 Number 2, the money that I used in my Clean
- 4 Elections was not used to gift to the Democratic party.
- 5 I can tell you how my money was spent. During the
- 6 primary it was spent to get pamphlets, to get a couple
- 7 of mailers out, but more importantly, to knock on
- 8 doors. I spent a bulk of my time -- and I talked about
- **9** that last month. Starting in July of last year the
- 10 three of us, along with a small band of volunteers, 11 were walking from 8:30, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. taking
- 12 a break and then walking again all afternoon until late
- 13 in the evening until the sun went down.
- 14 This was not because of the Democratic
- 15 party. This was because this was an opportunity for us
- 16 as candidates to try and create a level playing field
- 17 for people like me. People like me who are not well
- **18** connected. People like me who do not have contacts
- 19 with lobbyists or groups or organizations that can fund
- 20 my campaign as a traditional. In fact, I feel like I
- 21 have to comment that I wish that my colleagues across
- 22 the aisle would spend more time regulating and looking
- 23 at how much money traditional candidates get during
- 24 their campaigns.
- You guys know what it looks like to get a

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- 1 \$5 qualifying candidate because you see the forms. I
- 2 have to spend an extra few minutes which happy to do
- 3 because that allows me to get to know the person that
- 4 I'm talking to when asking them for a \$5 contribution.
- 5 They have to fill out their name, their address, their
- 6 phone number, their email and they have to sign. And
- 7 then I have to hold on to one copy for myself. I have
- 8 to give them a copy and then another copy goes to the
- 9 Secretary of State.
- 10 It's -- it's a huge process. I don't
- 11 believe the same process is accurate when somebody who
- 12 is run -- run traditional gets over \$5,000 or over
- 13 \$100. I actually don't even know what the process is,
- 14 but I bet you that they don't have to fill out a form
- **15** asking for all the information.
- As a -- as a Clean Elections candidate I
- 17 had to -- because I was one of the lucky candidates
- 18 that was audited, I had to provide a list of all the
- 19 names of my relatives, my grandparents who have been
- 20 deceased for a very long time. That was challenging
- 21 and incredibly difficult. So the reason I'm providing
- 22 this perspective is because there's a lot of rules
- 23 attached to being a Clean Elections candidate, and as a
- 24 person who voted to create Clean Elections so many
- 25 years ago, I was doing it because I wanted to provide a

- 1 these rules and rumors and innuendos.
- 2 It shocks me that we are doing everything
- 3 to discourage people like me to run for public office.
- 4 Is this what the mission was of the people who so voted
- 5 and believed in the Clean Elections system so many
- 6 years ago? I believe the number of Clean Elections
- 7 candidates has gone down over the years, especially
- 8 after the matching funds went away, I imagine. You
- 9 guys know the history probably better than I do. I can
- 10 only speak for my experience.
- And I can tell you with 100 percent
- L2 certainty in truth that my money as a Clean Elections
- 13 candidate went to serve the people in terms of me
- 14 knocking on doors. In my district, Legislative
- 15 District 26 in the primary, our team, without the help
- 16 of the Democratic party -- because, again, the only
- 17 time I gave money was for the general to get three
- 18 people hired. Knocked on over 30,000 doors. We
- 19 increased voter turnout by close to 30 percent and in
- 20 some districts, precincts, even higher.
- 21 That's an incentive to give people like me
- 22 who will spend 99 percent of their time walking in
- 23 100-degree, 110-degree temperature to knock on doors as
- 24 opposed to spending 90 percent of my time talking to
- 25 lobbyists or groups or organizations to fund a campaign

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- 1 level playing field for people like me to allow to be
- 2 able to run, not because the Democratic party asked me
- 3 to but because people that know and understand my
- 4 community trusted me to.
- 5 This idea that there's -- it's a financial
- 6 incentive for Democratic -- the Democratic party, it
- 7 just shocks me. I don't know what the financial
- 8 incentive is. I can tell you that in the general I did
- 9 provide less than \$5,000 to the Democratic party, and I
- 10 can tell you what it was used for. Their names are
- 11 Fatima Islas and Colin Behar. They were the people who
- 12 were running my campaign. They were there day in, day
- 13 out, nights, weekends gathering and organizing
- 14 volunteers -- volunteers, not paid volunteers --
- 15 volunteers to knock on doors.
- 16 That was a coordinated campaign. It was
- 17 not me funneling money from Clean Elections into the
- 18 Democratic party so the Democratic party can then use
- 19 the money for I don't know what. I'm not really sure
- 20 where these innuendos are coming from. Oh, and also I
- 21 forgot to mention Phil. Phil Waguara, which I know I'm
- 22 saying his name wrong, but three people. I saw them
- 23 day in and day out every day. I can tell you where my24 money was used. I can tell you where my money went.
- 25 It did not go to other districts as I'm hearing all of

- 1 where there apparently I don't believe is a money troll
- 2 because we continue to deregulate traditional
- 3 candidates. Think about that.
- 4 We're talking about, in essence, what is --
- 5 \$16,000 is what I received in the primary and about
- 6 \$24,000. That's like \$40,000. So you look at me right
- 7 now as I stand before you telling you I was not asked
- 8 by the Democratic party to run. I did not give my
- **9** money to the Democratic party to spend on other
- 10 candidates in other districts because I looked at the
- 11 people that I hired with that money on an effort to
- 12 increase voter turnout in our community, in my 13 community on the streets that I grew up in.
- 14 I grew up on 44th Street and Southern. In
- 15 the primary in the first two weeks, the ballots that
- and primary in the first two weeks, the curious that
- 16 were turned in were higher than the amount of votes
- 17 four years earlier. That was because of the work that
- 18 we did knocking on doors. All you have to do, I
- encourage you, please -- I got the audit. I'm sure you
- 20 received the paperwork. Look through my information.
- 21 You'll see exactly how I spent my money. \$700 went to
- the minivan system so we can access voter files.I keep hearing some interesting numbers.
- 24 \$700, I think, is what I paid. So, again, it's a
- 25 perspective that we need to seriously consider. So is

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- 1 the goal to dis -- discourage people like me from
- 2 running? Because that's what Rule A and B will do. Is
- 3 the goal to give a heads up or a leg up or a full --
- 4 you know, if you're running and running around the
- 5 track, literally traditional candidates have a huge leg
- 6 up because there are fewer rules for them. Again, as a
- 7 voter we wanted to encourage people like me to run.
- And then I also want to yellow highlight --
- 9 you know this. Senator Mendez, third time running,
- 10 first time running as a senator, and he stepped to the
- 11 Clean Elections system. I wish he was here so he could
- 12 tell his story, but I can tell you right now that I as
- 13 a Clean Elections candidate have never been asked by
- 14 the Democratic party to run. In fact, I was
- 15 discouraged. I was not asked to give my money to the
- 16 Democratic party. Those are my facts. That is my
- 17 perspective.
- So I'm not sure what has happened in the
- 19 past that has created this rumor mill. You need to
- 20 come and talk to the candidates. I wish Pam Powers --
- 21 Representative Pam Powers Hannley was here because she
- 22 could tell you the exact same story I'm telling you.
- 23 She was not encouraged by the Democratic party to run,
- 24 and I guarantee she probably did not give her money to
- 25 the Democratic party so it would be used in other

- My -- and I want you to go door to door.
- 2 That's my whole spiel is go door to door. This should
- 3 be a grassroots effort and so on. That's not the
- 4 issue. The issue is these three people that helped
- you, why can't you just pay them directly without the
- Democratic party? Do you not see that that could lead
- to undue influence by the party telling you what to do
- and so on? It's happened all over the world. Tammany
- 9 Hall, Chicago, all over -- anywhere there's political 10 parties.
- 11 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Undue influence.
- 12 COMMISSIONER PATON: And so my issue is not
- 13 you going door to door. You should use the money how
- 14 you want to. This is state money that's given to you.
- We just ask that you document it and don't write checks
- to the party. That's my issue. So these three people
- that helped you, that's fine. People do that all the
- time. Pay them directly. That's the only problem that
- **19** I have with that.
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: And I --
- 21 COMMISSIONER PATON: Do you understand
- **22** that?
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Well, and I
- 24 appreciate your honesty. Thank you so much,
- Commissioner Paton. Huge reality, right? Paton.

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- 1 areas.
- Have those conversations and -- or look
- 3 at -- look at our files. Obviously, the system works
- 4 because, unfortunately, you guys have to discuss
- 5 Representative Rubalcava. The system is apparently
- 6 working. It's effective. What is ineffective is the
- 7 fact that there is no system for traditional candidates 8 which I know you have no say in, but I just want to
- **9** point that out.
- We're breaking or we're deregulating often 10
- 11 for traditional candidates on vast amounts of money and
- 12 we as Clean Elections all we have is less than \$40,000,
- 13 not including the \$4,000 that we're asked to raise.
- 14 And I'm happily -- which, by the way, came from friends
- 15 and family, friends and family.
- So there's a problem, but it's not with 16
- 17 Clean Elections. Let me be clear. It is not with
- 18 Clean Elections.
- 19 Thank you. Any questions?
- 20 COMMISSIONER PATON: Question.
- **ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commissioner** 21
- 22 Paton.
- 23 COMMISSIONER PATON: So, I mean, obviously,
- 24 we're all on -- have something to do with Clean
- 25 Elections so we're not against Clean Elections.

- 1 Sorry. Thank you. I can tell you that the three
- 2 people were influenced by the team: Representative
- 3 Salman, myself and Mendez. It was a coordinated
- 4 campaign. As you well can imagine, there's a lot
- 5 happening in a general election where we're just --
- 6 it's just coordinated. Which doors are we knocking?
- You know, if this team is knocking on that door. And I understand your concerns, right, but
- 9 what I've heard is this idea -- what was it? There was
- a reference to, like, \$80,000. I don't know where
- these numbers are coming from. So all I'm trying to do
- is just provide you a perspective from someone who ran
- clean for the first time, providing just a perspective
- 14 on I was not asked by the Democratic party because
- there was also another reference that people are asked
- to run in certain areas and then they can take that
- money and funnel it or take it or put it in a different
- 18 area. So I'm just here, and I certainly understand and
- 19 respect your perception.
- 20 COMMISSIONER PATON: Right. Can you -- can
- 21 you answer what is wrong with if you're running as a
- 22 team, why do you need to write checks to the Democratic
- party or the Green party or whoever? Why can't you get 24 together, find these people that can help you because
- 25 they've got the knowledge, like Mr. Constantin -- I

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- 1 always forget his last name. There are people
- 2 available to do this. You said you're a first time
- 3 person --
- 4 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Yeah.
- 5 COMMISSIONER PATON: I can understand how
- 6 you wouldn't know that, but they recruited you. They
- 7 said you would be a good person and so you get with
- 8 like-minded people that -- and if you want to band
- 9 together, so be it. That's fine, but why do you have
- 10 to write checks to the party? Nobody is answering my
- 11 question. Why is that so difficult?
- 12 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: It's not that it's a
- 13 difficult question. I'm not really sure how to answer
- 14 it other than just with honesty. The Democratic party
- 15 was just an opportunity to work on a coordinated
- 16 campaign so we were not hitting the same doors, so we
- 17 would hit different neighbors, but here's the thing.
- 18 Maybe -- and there's a reason you're creating these
- 19 rules, right? I don't know what to tell you. I
- 20 honestly don't know what to tell you other than it was
- 21 an opportunity --
- 22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Sure.
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: -- to run an
- 24 effective campaign in a coordinated effort influenced
- 25 by the three people who hired those three individuals.

- 1 with other organizations? I mean, I'm sure there's a
- 2 lot of organizations -- or coordinating happening.
- 3 Just because somebody has the title of private -- and,
- 4 I mean, I don't know. I'm asking the same question.
- COMMISSIONER PATON: And that's my --
- 6 that's my point. There may not be -- maybe this is all
- 7 semantics but, it's all optics as well. We are trying
- 8 to -- we are trying to get the public -- when the
- 9 public hears -- and eventually they will. When the
- 10 public hears that all these candidates are writing
- 11 checks to any party, then they -- Clean Elections
- 12 gets -- gets a black eye. How does clean --
- 13 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: It does not get a
- 14 black eye.
- 15 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'm sure it will.
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: I will politely
- 17 disagree with you. I appreciate it, but I just wanted
- 18 to make a point, right? And that was I'm only standing
- 19 here before you to provide you my perspective of how I
- 20 spent my money.
- 21 COMMISSIONER PATON: Sure.
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: And I don't know
- 23 what people are thinking. People are not -- what I
- 24 know is the money that was given to the Democratic
- 25 party in the general. I named the three people. They

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- 1 COMMISSIONER PATON: Right.
- 2 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Yes. In our -- in
- 3 our primary we had a consultant, but a lot of our work
- 4 happened to be with volunteers. And that was our focus
- 5 was mostly volunteers.
- 6 COMMISSIONER PATON: And that's good.
- 7 That's what -- that's what I want. That's what
- 8 Mr. Constantin has been talking about and you and your
- 9 teammates -- nobody has any issues with that. The
- 10 issue is that you can meet these people, coordinate
- 11 your campaign, pay the same three people however you
- 12 want to do it, but just don't write checks to the
- 13 party. And I don't -- and when people say this is too
- 14 difficult to do this, I don't understand the
- 15 difficulty.
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Well, then, I guess
- 17 the question is, too, then why don't we write just huge
- 18 checks to consultants without really understanding how
- 19 much money is being given to the consultants and what
- 20 they're spending their money on? I mean, that's --
- 21 that's the same question.
- 22 COMMISSIONER PATON: But they're private.
- 23 This is state monies that you're giving to the party.
- 24 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: But are they -- but
- 25 do we know they are private or are they coordinating

- 1 worked with us day in and day out and knocked on doors
- 2 with us and coordinated our volunteers. That's what
- 3 they did. It wasn't given so that the money would go
- 4 to a different -- and those are -- I'm just answering
- 5 to those -- those innuendos. That's what I was
- 6 answering to.
- 7 I'm just here as a Clean Elections
- 8 candidate to say that this is what I did with my money.
- 9 And I appreciate your question and your perception, but
- 10 I'm trying to help you understand that this is what
- 11 I -- I was not asked by the Democratic party to run,
- 12 discouraged but not encouraged because that was an
- 13 innuendo as well, a general innuendo. And the money
- ${f 14} \;\; {\hbox{that}} \; {\hbox{I gave, I named the three people that worked in my}$
- 15 campaign. And I saw them day in and day out and
- 16 working because I knocked on the doors with them and
- 17 they coordinated those volunteers.
- 18 I'm sorry.
- 19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: And,
- 20 Representative Blanc, I want to thank you, you know,
- 21 for your service using Clean Elections and running the
- 22 way you've run, and I sincerely appreciate what you've
- 23 told us today. And I just want to -- I just want to
- 24 say that the public comment process, that's not

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- 1 know that.
- 2 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: No, no, and I do.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: So -- so we're
- 5 giving everyone an opportunity to speak, you and others
- 6 here. So I would just urge everyone here that one
- 7 public comment is not our decision.
- REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Agree.
- 9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Two, a single
- 10 commissioner might -- with respect to my colleague here
- 11 Commissioner Paton has made it clear how he feels about
- 12 that. He's one of five commissioners. So we want to
- 13 give this consideration. I personally want to give
- 14 this consideration, and I appreciate comment from
- 15 everyone. So I appreciate what you've offered today
- 16 very much, as I appreciate what everyone has offered
- 17 today.
- 18 So I know -- Commissioner Chan, did you
- 19 have something that you wanted --
- 20 COMMISSIONER CHAN: On a second thought,
- 21 no.
- 22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay.
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: And I appreciate it
- 24 and just -- again, I just wanted to -- because there
- 25 were some statements made. And I respect them, but my

- 1 there was a lot of references made in testimony. And I
- 2 respect people's opinions, but I thought it was really
- 3 important to just share my perspective as someone who
- 4 did run clean very recently. And for me personally,
- 5 you know, it's troubling when there's, again, innuendos
- 6 that are made. So I just wanted to provide a
- 7 perspective. That's it. A perspective from my point
- 8 of view, especially since it was just a year ago when
- **9** we were walking in this heat.
- 10 Thank you.
- 11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: From my
- 12 perspective, you have been heard and I very much
- 13 appreciate it.
- 14 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Thank you so much.
- 15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any other
- **16** questions?
- 17 (No response.)
- **18** ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any other
- 19 further public comment? Please come up. State your
- 20 name for the record, please.
- **21** Tom?
- MR. COLLINS: Yeah, just the air
- 23 conditioner has, in fact, given out. So that's why --
- 24 if you're wondering why it's warmer, it's because we've
- 25 broken the air conditioner.

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- 1 goal here was to stand before you and just talk about
- 2 my perspective and my experience as a Clean Elections
- 3 candidate just so you know and understand that this is
- 4 my experience. So that was it.
- 5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: And I've very
- 6 thankful that you shared that.
- 7 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Thank you.
- 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: I wasn't at the
- 9 last meeting so maybe others have already --
- 10 COMMISSIONER CHAN: That's what I was just
- 11 going to say is that I know that --
- 12 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Yes.
- 13 COMMISSIONER CHAN: -- the chairman was not
- 14 here and I -- one of the things when I was asking
- 15 questions of the other folks who testified was you --
- 16 your testimony and your seatmates' testimony were
- 17 front -- front and center in my mind. I mean, I am
- **18** very clear, and I thought it was unfortunate that
- 19 everybody wasn't here today. And I'm glad you guys
- 20 came over just to kind of have a juxtaposition,
- 21 especially for Chairman Meyers since he wasn't able to
- 22 be here.
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Yeah. I encourage
- 24 you to watch the video. It will just provide
- 25 perspective. So just, again, I'm just here because

- 1 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: It seems to be
- **2** happening everywhere.
- 3 Athena Salman, state representative for
- 4 District 26. Hello again to some of you and,
- **5** Commissioner Meyer, It's a pleasure to see you.
- 6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: I'm only acting
- 7 Commissioner.
- 8 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: So Representative
- 9 Blanc did a fantastic job in covering most of the
- 10 points so I just want to reiterate that in the last
- 11 testimony I really talked about how -- how much I liked
- **12** Option C because I think that transparency is good.
- 13 And transparency is not only good for candidates who
- 14 are choosing the party as the vendor, and in my
- 15 instance, for the general election I chose the party as
- **16** the vendor. I thought that given all the options that
- 17 were able to me and given the capacity, they had the
- 18 capacity to do what I needed to get done to achieve my
- **19** election goals.
- 20 If A or B were to pass, you would put me at
- 21 a competitive disadvantage to traditional candidates
- who can still use the party as a vendor and I would not be able to because I decided to run clean which is the
- 24 absolute transparent process to run for elected office
- 24 absorate transparent process to run for elected offic
- 25 in Arizona, but I also --

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- 1 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Mr. Chairman -- and I'm
- 2 sorry, Representative Salman.
- 3 If I may, Mr. Chairman.
- 4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Sure.
- 5 COMMISSIONER CHAN: One question I do want
- 6 to ask to that point is just that I feel strongly that
- 7 every candidate should be able to choose who their
- 8 vendors are and be able to make that decision, and I
- 9 personally like Option C because I think it allows for
- 10 that. And it also allows for a transparency check in
- 11 making sure that the monies that are paid are doing
- 12 what they're supposed to do.
- Some of the points that were made earlier
- 14 was that maybe candidates aren't making the best
- 15 decision because people can get voter lists for free,
- 16 those sorts of things, and I wondered if you had any --
- 17 anything to say on that point. And if you don't,
- 18 that's okay. I just -- that was one of the things that
- **19** was mentioned earlier. I hope I'm doing it justice.
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: And just a
- 21 clarifying question, when you say people are getting
- 22 voter lists for free, do you mean from their respective
- 23 parties or from consultants?
- **24** ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: From anywhere.
- 25 COMMISSIONER CHAN: You know, from

- 1 standard county voter file does not provide, and my
- 2 district is in only one county. It's in Maricopa
- 3 County, but also it's a hub for the data that I
- 4 collected this past election cycle. So I can keep
- 5 building upon that.
- 6 And I am not a computer science expert. I
- 7 don't know how to do that outside of what the party has
- 8 built. So that is a service that was built by the
- **9** party that has been incredibly helpful for myself.
- LO COMMISSIONER CHAN: So if I might just make
- 11 a comment, Mr. Chairman and Representative Salman. We,
- 12 actually, it sounds like, be putting one party's
- 13 candidates at a real disadvantage if we were to
- **14** prohibit them from obtaining this information from
- 15 their party.
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: So I would -- since
- 17 we heard from -- since I know, because I've only run as
- 18 a Democrat, that that is something that the Democratic
- 19 party provides, I could say that, yes, that would be
- 20 putting me at a disadvantage. I don't know if the
- 21 Green party provides that. I don't know if the
- 22 Libertarian party, Republican party, but by all means,
- 23 if the parties and these other parties that I compete
- 24 with want to develop that service for their candidates,
- 25 there's nothing that would prevent them from doing so.

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- 1 anywhere. And nobody actually said where they got the
- 2 voter list for free, but they said they're out there.
- 3 I don't know, you know, what the quality of the list
- 4 would be, for example.
- 5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Rather than
- 6 having to spend your Clean Election funds for a voter
- 7 list, is there a way for candidates to obtain that same
- 8 list for nothing from some other source?
- 9 COMMISSIONER CHAN: And, actually, to be
- 10 fair, I think Constantin did mention that for the
- 11 Democratic party perhaps that's not possible because
- 12 there is one kind of great list that you do have to pay
- 13 for. So it may be not be possible for the Democratic
- 14 candidates, actually.
- 15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: That's right.
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: What I really love
- 17 about that exchange is I think you guys just answered
- 18 it.
- 19 COMMISSIONER CHAN: Thank you.
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: You know, I ran as
- 21 a Democrat. And plan to continue running as a
- 22 Democrat, and for the Democratic party it is an
- 23 enriched file. And I'll be using the voter file from
- 24 the Democratic party as well both because we have
- 25 options to get even deeper information that the

- 1 So right now it would be a hindrance on the
- 2 Democratic party, but who knows. Maybe in the future
- 3 another party will provide that service. I don't know
- 4 the inner workings of the other parties, but the
- 5 other -- the other thing that I really like about C,
- 6 too, so it would allow us to use the tools that are
- 7 available to us as Clean Election candidates and as
- 8 competitive candidates so that we can properly run an
- 9 effective, efficient and ultimately a winnable
- 10 campaign, but I also think that it's really important
- 11 to get more -- more information and more transparency
- 12 on consultants.

16 six months.

- 13 Commissioner -- every time I see you I want
- 14 to call you General Paton. Commissioner Paton --
- 15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: It took me about
- 17 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: Did it? Okay. So
- 18 it's not just me? That's good.
- 19 COMMISSIONER PATON: That's good. That's
- 20 my pseudonym.
- 21 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: So I hear -- I hear
- 22 your point, and I kind of wonder, though, this is --
- 23 you know, this is just -- the Democratic party has been
- 24 very transparent about you can choose us as a vendor
- 25 and here's the services that we provide. I ask myself

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- 1 why isn't other parties doing that for their
- 2 candidates? And, if not, are there consultants out
- 3 there that aren't coordinating with the party? We
- 4 should know that and voters deserve to know that and
- 5 just to have that more transparency.
- And I think with Section C we'll have a
- 7 more complete picture and -- and that's just a good
- 8 thing, you know, and I think Representative Blanc did a
- 9 fantastic job highlighting that. I really do wish that
- 10 there was the same level in standard for traditional
- 11 candidates because ultimately I want to just compete
- 12 about ideas and I want the resources to run an
- 13 effective campaign so I can communicate that idea,
- 14 communicate my message to voters.
- 15 And if someone wants to run traditional,
- 16 that's fine, but let's keep it an equal play field.
- 17 Let's not handicap the process, the rules for Clean
- 18 Elections to make it so onerous that folks like me who
- 19 truly believe in the mission of Clean Elections, truly
- 20 believe that we should get -- eliminate money from
- 21 politics or try to mitigate the influence of money in
- 22 politics so we can continue to use this fantastic
- 23 system.
- I want to mention something. Because of
- 25 the way that exists -- and, again, I fully support

- 1 scratch and we're taking the oath. We're taking the
- 2 pledge. And then, I guess, as some candidates kind of
- 3 freaked out and said, well, let's create a tiered
- 4 system and say we won't take money from these groups,
- you know, but it shifts the conversation. And that's
- what -- that's what Arizona voters are thirsty for.
- That's what voters in the entire country are thirsty
- 8
- I would be glad to take more questions, but
- 10 that's kind of where I'm coming from and that's been my
- experience with Clean Elections. And if we have to do
- some more paperwork, you know, if the consultants that
- we work with have to just do more dotting their I's and
- crossing their T's so our voters know exactly how the
- Clean Election money was spent, that's great. I will
- make my consultants do that. And money is also money.
- I would be shocked if consultants turned away money
- when their business is to run elections.
- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you, 19
- 20 Representative Salman.
- 21 Any other questions from the commissioners?
- 22 (No response.)
- 23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you so
- 24 much.
- 25 REPRESENTATIVE SALMAN: Thank you.

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- 1 Option C. I advocate and would love to have more
- 2 transparency, but even just the system as it existed
- 3 since the inception and since I used it -- I've only
- 4 used it once. I'm a first-term representative.
- I met state legislators from Virginia and, 6 unfortunately, because of the influence of money in
- 7 politics, they cannot create -- and they don't have the
- 8 citizens initiative process. So they cannot create a
- 9 ballot -- or they cannot create a Clean Elections
- 10 system for themselves, but what they did -- and it's
- 11 called -- it's called the Clean Elections -- not team
- 12 because that's what we call ourselves -- squad, Clean
- 13 Elections Squad.
- 14 And they literally -- from hearing the
- 15 story of Clean Elections in Arizona and being inspired
- 16 by the transparency and the fact that we don't take
- 17 money from dark money groups and PACs and independent
- 18 expenditures, that we really are advocating for the
- 19 public and running our campaign thus far, in Virginia
- 20 they started the Clean Elections Squad which is
- 21 candidates committing not to take PAC money for their
- 22 campaigns, any PAC money whatsoever.
- 23 And they're, like, we're going to start
- 24 with this and build from there. Maybe we can have what
- 25 Arizona has in the future, but we're starting from

- ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any additional
- public comment?
- 3 Go ahead in the front here and then you
- 4 can --
- 5 MS. WALTON: Hi. Dana Walton. I spoke the
- 6 last time. I am an employee of the Democratic party.
- 7 I specifically work with legislative candidates across
- 8 the state both traditionally and candidates who
- participate in Clean Elections. So we do encourage
- candidates to run in every single district across the state. I believe I said that last time. It is a ton
- of work. I'm staffed with two right now. So it's
- like, you know, 14-hour days, but the intention is to
- 14 make sure that everyone -- every voter across the state
- has the opportunity to vote for a Democrat on the
- ballot. 16
- 17 Beyond that I wanted to just address some
- of Commissioner Paton's questions about why writing a
- check to the Democratic party. If you listened to the
- way Isela talked to the individuals who worked on her
- campaign, you can tell she had great adoration and
- 22 respect for these individuals because knocking doors in
- 23 Arizona summer is not easy. Excuse me.
- What I would say is when she's able to buy
- 25 into a structure that is the Democratic party, those

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- 1 staffers are then treated as employees. And what
- 2 you're offered as an employee versus a consultant,
- 3 health insurance. You've got workers' compensation.
- 4 You've got rules and regulations that we as the
- 5 Democratic party have to abide by when treating our
- 6 employees with respect. This also happens to be a
- 7 great value of the Democratic party to treat our
- 8 employees with respect.
- 9 So I have had -- actually, last year I had
- 10 a staffer who had to go to the hospital for three days
- 11 because she was dehydrated and had heat exhaustion
- 12 which was covered under our workers' compensation
- 13 through the Democratic party. So -- there's also
- 14 stories of people getting bitten by dogs or twisting
- 15 their ankles after falling off of steps, right? There
- 16 are -- there's infrastructure in place for the
- 17 Democratic party that allows us to make sure that our
- 18 employees, while they are working day in and day out,
- 19 are being taken care of.
- 20 There's a few other questions that I was
- 21 going to try and take a stab at answering, but I just
- 22 can't remember them now. So if you have questions, I'm
- 23 happy to answer them, but I just wanted to make sure
- 24 that note was also made.
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you,

- 1 wealthy people and there's your campaign budget.
- 2 You're all set. And I worry that the harder we make it
- 3 to run clean, you know, keep tilting that scale a
- 4 little bit and you're starting to nudge people in the
- 5 direction of running traditional. And the program is
- 6 already so much smaller than it was in its heyday and
- 7 hopefully we can get back to that heyday rather than
- 8 moving the opposite direction.
- And I don't think that's the intent of
- 10 anybody on the Commission to shrink the participation
- 11 in the program. I really don't, but I worry that that
- would be one of the impacts of anything other than
- 13 Option C. And I think that because, you know, we've
- 14 heard candidates say that they think it would make
- 15 their lives -- their lives harder.
- 16 You know, I'm confident that
- 17 Representatives Blanc and Salman would probably
- 18 continue to run clean. They're big believers in the
- 19 Clean Elections system. That's why they're here. I'm
- 20 more concerned with your candidates who are -- who are
- 21 on the margins, who, you know, don't have the deep, you
- 22 know, philosophical commitment, but who you really
- 23 benefit as voters from them having their funds not come
- 24 from, again, that small handful of really wealthy
- 25 donors who can now fund the traditional campaign, you

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- 1 Ms. Walton.
- 2 Any questions?
- 3 (No response.)
- 4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. The
- 5 gentleman in the back.
- 6 MR. EDMAN: Thank you, commissioners. I'm
- 7 up here, well, in front of most of you again and then
- 8 the first time. My name is Joel Edman. I'm the
- 9 executive director of Arizona Advocacy Network. We're
- 10 a nonpartisan organization one of whose top priorities
- 11 is protecting the Clean Elections system. So I'm not
- 12 here to -- you know, defending the interests of the
- 13 Democratic party or the Republican party, for that
- 14 matter.
- 15 It is a little troublesome to me, I think,
- 16 that the push does seem to be coming largely from one
- 17 side. And as, you know, Commissioner Chan mentioned,
- 18 this may have a disproportionate impact on one side's
- 19 candidates, but my main interest here is to make it --
- 20 make sure that we are not discouraging people from
- 21 running clean.
- 22 Down the block at the capitol we're making
- 23 it easier and easier to run traditional. We're jacking
- 24 up the contribution limits through the roof to the
- 25 point where now you just need a small handful of very

- 1 know, basically on their own.
- 2 So that's -- that's all I have. I know
- 3 it's a big picture, but I think that the big picture
- 4 here is really more important than the little details
- 5 that we've gotten into through a lot of the morning.
- 6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any questions?
- 7 (No response.)
- 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you.
- 9 MR. EDMAN: Thank you.
- 10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Please step up.
- 11 MS. KNOX: I'm Rivko Knox, on behalf of the
- 12 League of Women Voters of Arizona. And I merely wanted
- 13 to kind of in a way second what Mr. Edman just said.
- 14 As you all well know -- and I've done it for the record
- 15 just to say that, again, the league is a totally
- 16 nonpartisan but very political -- progressive political
- 17 organization that was very instrumental in getting
- 18 Clean Elections passed and very instrumental in
- **19** supporting the Voter Protection Act.
- 20 It really pains me to hear many of the
- 21 things that have been said and that appear to have been
- 22 in the news a lot about somehow that Clean Election
- 23 candidates are now becoming almost puppets of a
- 24 particular party. I think that's really sad and I
- 25 would hope that the Commission would continue to put

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- 1 out the facts. I think Option C is excellent because I
- 2 think that the more faith that we can ensure the public
- 3 has in how Clean Election operates, the better. And I
- 4 think that the better, more documentation.
- 5 I think what appears to have happened since
- 6 the last election was some lessons were learned about
- 7 the need to get more documentation. I think that's
- 8 perfectly fine. I also just -- and I'm not trying to
- 9 denigrate anybody, but I do believe that one of the
- 10 Commissioners spoke about the fact that the Clean
- 11 Election candidate get state money. They do not get
- 12 state money, with all due respect, as I understand it,
- 13 because state money tends to imply that the State is
- **14** somehow taxing or getting revenue from the public.
- 15 And as you all know, because you are
- 16 commissioners and certainly the staff knows, the Clean
- 17 Elections money is not raised that way. So it is not
- 18 really state money. It certainly is public money. I
- 19 would prefer that terminology, if I might. And I do
- 20 not mean to impune you, Commissioner Paton, but that
- 21 word just struck me. It is public money, and that is
- 22 why I think the more transparency, the more
- 23 documentation the better.
- 24 Again, it sounds to me, having listened --
- 25 I was not here last month as you well know because of

- 1 (No response.)
- 2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Is there
- 3 any further public comment?
- 4 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman,
- 5 Mr. Querard has a comment and then we're going to lose
- 6 Commissioner Chan here. We still have a quorum. We do
- 7 have to get to Mr. Kanefield on the agenda item we
- 8 pushed last time because of this going longer than we
- 9 expected. So my suggestion is if Mr. Querard could be
- 10 brief and then we can move on to Mr. Kanefield, I think
- 11 that will be best.
- 12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Yes. One
- 13 minute.
- MR. QUERARD: In the interest of body heat,
- **15** I will move myself.
- 16 Again, I appreciate the stories. I love
- 17 how people are run clean and win and I've helped a lot
- 18 of those candidates myself. So I hope nothing we've
- 19 said is construed as an attack on Clean Elections. The
- 20 specifics of District 26, however, is that this is a --
- 21 it's not a competitive district. The action is in the
- 22 primary. If you win the primary you can pretty much
- 23 start measuring the drapes. So it is illustrative of
- 24 who you spend money when it matters versus how you
- 25 spend money when it doesn't matter.

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- 1 some personal reasons, although I read the minutes of
- 2 the meeting. And I'm aware of what was said, but I
- 3 would hope that the Commission would continue to ensure
- 4 that you as commissioners and Staff continue to inform
- 5 the public is to how Clean Elections really operates so6 there does not get to be some incorrect information or
- 7 some tendency for people to believe something that
- 8 apparently is not true, to put it as plainly as I can.
- So the league has not taken a position of
- 10 the options. We might after everything I've heard, but
- 11 up to this point I've not recommended it because I do
- 12 not feel it was appropriate. We might at this point
- 13 because we do not want to see -- I can speak for myself
- 14 here. I do not want to see Clean Election -- or people
- 15 who choose to run as Clean Election candidates in any
- 16 way made -- to make it harder for those who choose to
- 17 run that way because I think it is a wonderful system
- 18 because of its transparency.
- 19 So thank you-all very much. If anyone has
- 20 a question -- and, again, Commissioner Paton, I hope I
- 21 did not offend you. It was not my intent.
- 22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Oh, no.
- MS. KNOX: So thank you very much.
- 24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you.
- 25 Any questions?

- All of this expertise -- they had an Evan
- 2 Behar that was -- and I'm probably saying it wrong --
- 3 that all three of the candidates in the team paid.
- 4 Nominal amounts during the primary when money was tight
- 5 and really large money also in the general, \$3,500 a
- 6 month kind of thing. Mr. Mendez didn't. He -- his
- 7 money was taken because he didn't have a general
- 8 election.
- **9** The team suddenly had this party expertise
- 10 it needed at extraordinary cost to guide them on how to
- 11 do something they had already successfully done in the
- 12 race that mattered when they wouldn't have spent their
- 13 money that way because every dollar was so precious.
- 14 Suddenly they needed this expertise to guide this team
- 15 and to do all this stuff. Again, Mr. Mendez
- 16 contributed nothing to that expense. It benefits the
- 17 team when two of the candidates are paying; the third
- 18 candidate is not paying.
- 19 So how you spend your money when it matters
- 20 versus how you spend it when it doesn't matter is
- 21 illustrative of what really mattered. If this guidance
- 22 was so critical, so crucial, these people were just God
- 23 sent and they just had skills that, my gosh, we just
- 24 didn't have without them, you wouldn't have seen them
- 25 in the general that didn't matter -- I wouldn't say it

12:33:13-12:33:57 Page 142 12:35:23-12:36:18 Page 144

- 1 didn't matter, but really it was impossible to lose
- 2 that district in the general election -- you would have
- 3 seen them in the race that mattered.
- 4 And in the race that mattered when the
- 5 dollars were tight, everybody got less money.
- 6 Paychecks were smaller. The party got no money. And
- 7 it's just -- so from a strategic standpoint, that's
- 8 what we look at. I'm not sure why Mr. Mendez didn't
- 9 contribute anything at all, but that's -- he didn't
- 10 really have a race, though.
- 11 MR. COLLINS: Well, he didn't really have
- **12** a --
- 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Understood.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 On to --
- MR. COLLINS: We really need -- there's
- 17 going to be an opportunity next month, Representative
- 18 Blanc, unless it's really --
- 19 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: It's quick. I'm
- 20 sorry. I just --
- 21 MR. QUERARD: And it's fair.
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE BLANC: Thank you.
- Really briefly, I'm not really sure where
- 24 that -- that came out of left field, sir. Evan Bejar
- 25 was also our consultant during the race that really

- 1 that I don't know how he wants to handle that.
- 2 MR. KANEFIELD: Thanks, Tom.
- 3 Mr. Chair, members of the Commission, I
- 4 think Tom summarized the issue. I don't know if you're
- 5 familiar with respect to the court -- the surcharges
- 6 that are collected by the court and primarily or
- 7 exclusively fund the Commission these days. Because of
- 8 the legal issues associated with the question, I think
- 9 it probably would make sense for the Commission to go
- 10 into executive session so I could give you some counsel
- 11 on how we might want to proceed with our dealings with
- 12 the court.
- 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Do we
- 14 need a motion?
- 15 MR. COLLINS: Yes, please.
- 16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: I'll move that
- 17 we go into executive session.
- **18** Is there a second?
- 19 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Second.
- 20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Okay. Motion.
- 21 All in fair enough say aye.
- **22** (Chorus of ayes.)
- 23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any opposition?
- 24 (No response.)
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right.

12:34:00-12:35:21 Page 143 | 12:36:18-01:03:07 Page 145

- 1 mattered which was the primary. I just wanted to point
- 2 that out. So he was our consultant throughout both our
- 3 primary and general.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Thank you.
- 6 All right. Agenda Item Number VII, Tom.
- 7 MR. COLLINS: Okay. So we are going to try
- 8 to -- this is something only the Commission and Staff
- 9 care about, I think. Mr. Kanefield is here to talk to
- 10 us about our progress in discussing matters of our
- 11 surcharge with the Arizona Administrative Office of the
- 11 Surcharge with the Arizona Administrative Office of the
- 12 Courts.
- Just to kick that off, I don't know if we
- 14 want to go into executive session or not, but just to
- 15 kick off the public portion, as you all know, starting
- 16 in last year, I was in communication with the court
- 17 staff, the chief justice and the Commission on
- 18 reforming the financial operations related to those who
- 19 are considered to be in poverty about the
- 20 constitutional implications and other implications of
- 21 what they -- what they propose to do.
- 22 Those efforts weren't successful, but once
- 23 they introduced the bill, we were finally able to get
- 24 into some productive conversation and then -- and Joe
- 25 has some ideas on how to take some stuff from there

- 1 Motion carries three-zero.
- 2 ///
- 3 (The following section of the meeting is in
- 4 executive session and bound under separate cover.)
- **5** *****
- 6 (End of executive session. Public meeting
- 7 resumes at 1:02 p.m.)
- 8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right. We
- 9 are back out of executive session.
- 10 Is there a motion, my fellow commissioners?
- 11 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Mr. Chairman?
- 12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Commission
- 13 Kimble.
- 14 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: I move that we
- 15 proceed as discussed in executive session.
- 16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Is there a
- 17 second?
- 18 COMMISSIONER PATON: Second.
- 19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right. We
- 20 have a motion. It's been moved and seconded.
- 21 All in favor say aye.
- **22** (Chorus of ayes.)
- 23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All opposed?
- 24 (No response.)
- 25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right.

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Citizens Clean Elections Commission 01:03:08-01:03:39 Page 146 1 Motion carries three-zero. 2 Mr. Collins? 3 MR. COLLINS: Public comment. There's no 3 4 one here for public comment. So we can move to a 5 motion to adjourn. 6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Who would like 7 the honor of the motion to adjourn? COMMISSIONER PATON: I would make a motion 9 to adjourn this meeting. 10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Second? 10 11 COMMISSIONER KIMBLE: Second. 11 12 12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: All right. 13 MR. COLLINS: Do you want to do a vote? 13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Motion to 14 15 adjourn. 15 All in favor? 16 16 17 (Chorus of ayes.) 17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: Any opposition? 18 18 19 (No response.) 19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON MEYER: No? Motion 20 20 21 carries. 21 That concludes our meeting on June 27 --22 22 **23** 22nd. 23 24 Thank you. 24 25 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at 25 Page 147 1:03 p.m.) 1

STATE OF ARIZONA COUNTY OF MARICOPA BE IT KNOWN the foregoing proceedings were taken by me; that I was then and there a Certified Reporter of the State of Arizona, and by virtue thereof authorized to administer an oath; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate transcript of all proceedings and testimony had and adduced upon the taking of said proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability. I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to nor employed by any of the parties thereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof. DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 24th day of June, 2016. LILIA MONARREZ, RPR, CR #50699

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